# EAST BAY EXPRESS

MARCH 16-22, 2011 EASTBAYEXPRESS.COM

# SHARKS LEFT FOR DEAD

LOVERS OF SHARK FIN SOUP SAY IT'S A CULTURAL TRADITION BUT SCIENCE PROVES IT'S BRUTAL AND INHUMANE. *by Hannah Dreier*

NEWS 13

## DOG PARK DIVIDES LAKE MERRITT

Thirteen years in the making, the proposed Lakeview Dog Park meets its fiercest resistance yet.

The question comes up again and again: Why would anyone oppose a dog park? But opponents of the proposed **Lakeview Dog Park** at the north end of Lake Merritt say they have a good reason. The high-visibility location is simply inappropriate for a dog park. Now, as opposition to the park has mounted in recent weeks, heated arguments, emotional missives, and brazen name-calling have swelled on online neighborhood forums. Councilwomen **Nancy Nadel** and **Pat Kernighan** have stepped in to moderate. The only question left is whether the long-awaited dog run will ever get built. But even if it succeeds in gaining final approval from the city, it won't be without a bitter, divisive fight. *Story inside*

FOOD 51

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**On the Cover** *Dried shark fins. Photograph by Stephen Loewinsohn. Illustration by Brian Kelly.*

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## LETTERS

### He'll Hate Me

Fantastic article on Hate Man, extremely well written and a perceptive portrait. Possibly the definitive word on Hate Man. Though he'll hate my guts for writing a positive.

*Ace Backwords, Berkeley*

### A Failed Parent

According to your reporter, Mark Hawthorne "can't understand how others operate without" his worldview. Maybe it's because so many of us are committed to not becoming child-abusing, trashcan-scrounging, homeless people. Like other Berkeley narcissists, Hawthorne places loyalty to his dogma ahead of responsibility for the emotional well-being of his offspring. He said he has "not solved" his relationships with his kids. What would happen if he behaved the way successful parents behaved, rather than persisting in his old conduct and expecting new results?

*David Altschul, Berkeley*

### Espresso with a Side of Tamales

Steps to gentrification:

1. Initial exploration. ("Great find!")
2. Spread the word. ("Man, it's the place to hang out!")
3. Deny desire to live or work there. ("Too different," "Don't know anyone there," etc.)
4. Trickle of "urban pioneers" move in, accompanied by a few coffeehouses, boutiques, etc., owned by new residents or "outsiders." ("Gee, you can live in bigger places cheaper and there are even a new coffeehouse serving espresso with a side of tamales.")
5. Area starts "looking familiar." ("It's like living in South Campus but ... different.")
6. Newcomers displace old time residents. ("This place seems to welcome everyone.")
7. Oakland's newest Temescal. ("Oakland's next Gourmet Ghetto.")

From step 1 to 7 may take 10-25 years.

*Al Sargis, Oakland*

### Journalistic Dribble

I just lost so much respect for the *Express* reading this absolutely reprehensible piece of journalistic dribble. Seriously, the only angle that you can think about in the Fruitvale is the fact that white people and privileged college students like to go there to consume the "exotic other"?! What about writing about the organizing going on in the community to stop the gang injunctions, or any of the many positive, community-oriented things that happen there *every day*. But no. Because people of color only exist to make white folks' lives more colorful and interesting, right? Because that is definitely the vibe that I got from this piece of trash. This writer needs to seriously re-examine his/her priorities and attitudes and stop being so absolutely offensive, culturally ignorant and paternalistic towards an entire neighborhood. There is no excuse for this. Ugh.

*Amy Ortiz, Oakland*

### Good Grief

I think people need to calm all the anger down. The article was clearly very basic and had no intention of exploring gentrification, race relations, or being a Pulitzer Prize-winning article. It's just tacos, college students (not described as white), and thrift stores. Good grief!

*Antionett Lengham, St. Louis, MO*

### Our Culture Isn't a Toy

I am a current Cal student who was born and raised close to Fruitvale (around Garfield). I've worked there, marched there, held events there, organized there. Every day I walk around campus and have to deal with students just like the ones interviewed in this article. I'm baffled at how they can point out the lack of job opportunities in the community and not realize the social implications — that the people in Fruitvale are struggling. Do they not want to do something about that? They can become allies, join in the fight against gang injunctions, help revitalize the community in a way that does not strip the community of its power.

But no, they choose to walk away at the end of the day and say it's not their problem. Not to mention how they exotify the Fruitvale culture, how they straight up called it a *novelty*. Our culture is not a toy, it is our way of life.

*Stephanie Hoang, Berkeley*

**Letters Policy**
Please provide your full name, address, and daytime phone number, although we will only print your name, city, and affiliation. Send submissions to Letters@EastBayExpress.com or Letters, *East Bay Express*, 620 3rd St., Oakland, CA 94607. Letters are edited for length and clarity.

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## Peanut Butter Disappointment

I agree 100 percent. If anything, you are being generous. "That's the beauty of wax, y'all! You never know what's going to happen!" (Said verbatim four-plus times in a two-hour set). You really do never know. Peanut Butter Wolf seemed to be drunk judging by the way he shouted random banter at three times the sound level of the music. Dâm-Funk was forced to do more than his share of the show. Good songs played incoherently and the beat was getting dropped every two or three minutes. I had my dancing shoes tied up tight and I was pretty disappointed that nothing powerful materialized.

*Brian Best, Berkeley*

[illegible] News 3/2

## Go Richmond!

I personally think Richmond can be a great incubator. I have friends working at SunPower. This area (close to Richmond Field Station) is really nice — great access to the Bayshore Trail (very safe), and restaurants are plentiful up and down San Pablo Avenue. As long as you aren't heading in to the Iron Triangle, this area of Richmond is really nice. I'm pulling for Richmond!

*Bryant Amos, El Cerrito*

## Go Alameda!

Alameda is a much safer place to walk, jog, ride your bike, or park your car near the lab than Richmond, Oakland, Berkeley, or Emeryville. And a shuttle bus could easily take lab workers and visitors to the fine, reasonably priced restaurants throughout Alameda. Alameda is a logical choice for the future of Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory.

*Carol Gottstein, Alameda*

[illegible] Black Venues, News

## Not Surprising

You really have to understand the history between black communities and law enforcement and the white community. For some reason people don't believe those issues still exist. Well they do. But when you are closed minded and unable to accept the history of your race you always display the flaws of others while hiding your own.

It's no secret that whites are starting to move into Oakland, and we all know that when whites find it hard to co-exist with others, they prefer to take over.

I would not be surprised if black businesses in the Downtown Uptown area are being targeted. I have been to many of those venues and a good handful of them are run exceptionally well. And you also have those that hit under the mark, just like some white businesses I have been to, and Latin and Asian and Indian businesses. Why the blacks always get put on display as the negative is beyond me. America would not be America without black people adding all the flavor others try to capture.

I encourage people, especially here in the Bay Area, to explore deeper into their own true history.

*Cedric Bedford-Chalale, Oakland*

## Cut OPD Slack

I don't believe the citizens of Oakland give our police department enough credit. I would recommend you try to empathize with their situation. Many of these guys are fathers with young kids that they would like to see raised into adulthood. We had four OPD gunned down two years ago, and another squad car fired upon just two weeks ago. Why anyone would want to volunteer to be an Oakland cop is beyond me, especially when they don't have the support of the community at their back.

Oakland is not Walnut Creek or Belmont, where officers have luxury to worry about jaywalkers and drivers making illegal U turns. This is a tough city and it requires tough law enforcement to keep it functional. Why is it that downtown Oakland doesn't have a vibrant nightlife like our neighbor in San Francisco? It's because most Oaklanders lock themselves into their fortresses at night and stay there until they feel it's safe to come out in the morning. All I am saying is cut our OPD some slack. They are the thin blue line between us and anarchy.

*Mark Romenskiu, Oakland*

[illegible] Fest Zone? News 2/23

## Is That Legal?

Addressing the anecdotal evidence that calling a council person can reduce fees, how can that happen when council members are prohibited from directing staff directly? I do not deny that Oakland's various fees are out of line with other local cities. I just think your article illustrates another more serious problem.

*Mark Dexter, Oakland*

## A Shame

If the City of Oakland wants to compete with almost any other California city, it really needs to get with the program and make festivals more affordable and far less-complicated a process for organizers. We have a fantastic wealth of talented folks here who can and do put on great events and throngs of Oakland locals who are hungry for more community festivals. People will come from all over the Bay Area and beyond. It would be a horrible shame if Oaklavia or other events don't happen due to unreasonable costs. Thanks to Karen Hester for persevering, and to other organizers who continue to work to create more Oaklandish events. *Viva Oakland!*

*Elizabeth August, Oakland*

## The Road to Broke

Great article. Oakland's flavor is just coming back after decades of downtown being a ghost town. We (organizers and festival goers) create the culture that sells the city. Without us, no shuttles, no restaurants, no theater, no reason for Bay Area residents to come play, live, and raise families here. Oakland city officials need to realize how broke they'll be again if they inhibit celebrations, festivals, and gatherings with soaring fees, because we promote business, boost real estate, and the tax base.

*Bruce Dragins*
*Executive Director*
*Richmond SPOKES*

## Corrections

In our March 2 music story on Pale Chalice we misspelled the band name Diepart. ●

RAISING THE BAR

# NFL OWNERS HIJACK OUR FUN

Players' pockets picked for profits.

By Jay Youngdahl

After unilaterally ending the collective bargaining agreement, the NFL formally locked out its players, refusing even to allow access to team weight rooms. The **Oakland Raiders** removed pictures of their star players such as **Darren McFadden** and **Nnamdi Asomugha** from the home page of their website. As I write this, the lead story on the site is the upcoming auditions for the 2011 Raiderettes: "Football's Fabulous Females."

While way too many bits and bytes will be generated over the football lockout, there are some important lessons to be learned if one peers through the testosterone fog of sports reporting.

Big time sports is an odd duck. Other than in natural disasters, there are few things that make a community come together like support for a sports team. Class, race and gender issues appear to slightly recede in the face of fervor for "our" team. But in reality, the teams are businesses owned by individuals or groups of individuals — 31 super-rich individuals. Only one team, the 2011 champion **Green Bay Packers**, has a type of public ownership.

We hear about **Raider Nation**, but **Al Davis** owns it and profits from it. The **Dallas Cowboys** call themselves "America's Team," but they're owned by the **Jerry Jones** family.

A common refrain of sports commentators in the wake of the lockout is to proclaim a pox on both houses, reducing this issue to "overgrown egos and massively over-inflated senses of self importance clashing" or a fight of "billionaires vs. millionaires." But these claims of moral equivalency on the two sides are fairy tales. As the sportswriter **Dave Zirin** writes, "You have 31 of the richest people in the United States — people with generational wealth, people whose children's children will make Tucker Carlson look like Big Bill Haywood — going against a workforce with careers that last just 3.4 years. It's a workforce that draws almost exclusively from poorer socio-economic backgrounds."

Part of the fight is about the desire of the players to not get maimed when they play the game, or at least to get respect and care when injuries occur. Football is a sport of gladiators. Like the spectacles in the Roman Colosseum, the lives of the participants are short. At the start of every season I am newly shocked at the level of violence. NFL players have an injury rate of 100 percent, and the number of concussions continues to rise. The players made health and safety an issue in the contract negotiations, but no agreement could be reached.

The catalyst for the breakdown in negotiations, however, was the refusal by the NFL to provide full financial records for the players to evaluate. I thought the gifted mediator **George Cohen**, an old acquaintance of mine, would get a settlement hammered out. But the powerful like to keep their secrets, as we were reminded when WikiLeaks published the US *State* Department cables.

According to **Matthew Futterman** of the *Wall Street Journal*, who is doing the best reporting on the real issues at stake, the NFL continues to demand that player salaries be cut by $750 million. In response, the players have asked to see full information to back up the league's claims that it needs a larger share of the revenue pie. Echoing the line of the Marx Brothers and cheating husbands everywhere, the league refused transparency and told the players to trust them, essentially saying, "Who you going to believe, me or your lying eyes?"

As Futterman reported, "The central thrust of the NFL's argument is that player costs are threatening profits." But today every team is profitable and network television reports that NFL games are "the most valuable television programming available."

The NFL has long been planning this lockout, a time-honored ploy of an employer who is trying to bust its workers' union. To prepare, the league signed broadcast deals that were to pay some $4 billion a year even if no games were played. The players have challenged those deals in court, and last month US District Court Judge **David S. Doty**, a Reagan appointee, said, "The record shows that the NFL undertook contract negotiations to advance its own interests and harm the interest of the players."

In response, the players have pulled out the old sports-union playbook, decertifying their union and moving the legal fight from mainstream labor law, which has been going in management's direction since the days of President Reagan, to anti-trust law, in which the players get to make the same arguments that businesses make. Being on the side of business is the only consistent way to win in federal courts today, as the decisions nearly always follow the money.

Channeling Adam Smith and Karl Marx, the *Journal*'s Futterman has put his finger on the real issue — in the current operative definition of "progress," businesses in a capitalist system need to grow. The NFL "has run out of new ways to make another quick $1 billion, so it's turning its focus to the biggest piggy bank of all: its own players." Futterman noted that the "larger question behind this entire labor fight" is the refrain that companies must show "steady growth over time." So we are faced with the question of what kind of "progress" should we want, an issue that the slow-growth and buy-local folks have been discussing for years.

The NFL owners are not saying they cannot pay; it's just that they will not make enough profit if they do pay. They've been fat and happy over the last few years. Ticket revenues doubled from 1997 to 2007, money from television rights jumped into the stratosphere, and taxpayers donated nearly $500 million a year to the 31 owners for new stadiums from 1993 to 2005. But today, owners can't raise ticket prices much, taxpayers don't have money to give for new stadia, and growth in broadcast revenue has stalled. Certainly we in the Bay Area know about stadium issues and the demands of wealthy owners for taxpayer cash.

So like many businesses today, if the rate of profit growth slows, even when they are making fat profits, NFL teams have decided to take on their employees.

Sure, these workers seem different from you and me: they are our high-paid heroes. But they're workers nonetheless — workers who trade short-lived money and fame for busted bodies. If football players are treated fairly and allowed to make informed choices to choose this life, so be it. I will enjoy it when they're back. ●

Jay.Youngdahl@EastBayExpress.com

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SEVEN DAYS

# TSUNAMI FEARS

As Japan was devastated by a horrific quake and giant waves, the Bay Area watched with apprehension

By Robert Gammon

We don't usually lead with international news, but there was no bigger story last week than the monster 8.9 earthquake and 30-foot tall tsunami that devastated Japan on Friday. The jaw-dropping disaster killed thousands of people and left millions without food and shelter. It was one of the strongest quakes on record and one of the worst natural catastrophes ever.

The disaster also promises to spur a rethinking of nuclear power. Over the weekend and early this week, Japanese officials raced to avoid a scary nuclear power-plant meltdown, grappling with explosions at two reactors and dangerously exposed fuel rods. Some experts feared that the country was on the brink of another **Chernobyl**, the infamous nuclear plant that exploded 25 years ago, spreading radioactive fallout over Europe.

President **Barack Obama** had recently been pushing for nuclear power expansion, calling it "green" energy, but the Japanese experience could dampen his effort to revive the flagging industry. Indeed, it may take another quarter-century before politicians and businesses begin talking about nuclear energy again as a significant and viable alternative to our over-dependence on fossil fuels.

Here in the East Bay, residents watched apprehensively on Friday morning to see if remnants of the giant tsunami would wreak any damage here. Despite some "sky-is-falling" reports by local news media, the worst the bay got was a small, rolling wave that was captured on video by an alert apartment-tower resident in Emeryville.

In Santa Cruz, meanwhile, the harbor suffered millions in damages, as did the one in Crescent City. The lone fatality occurred when a not-so-smart onlooker got too close to the surf near the mouth of the Klamath River and was swept out to sea.

## Blacks Flee Oakland

New **US Census** data revealed that despite extensive efforts to spur urban growth, Oakland lost more than 2 percent of its population, dropping from nearly 400,000 in 2000 to about 390,000 in 2010. The city, however, did experience growth in its downtown area, adding a little more than 5,000 new residents, the *Oakland Tribune* reported. Ex-Mayor **Jerry Brown**'s 10K Plan for downtown, in other words, turned out to be more like 5K.

Blacks continued to lead the exodus out of Oakland, continuing a mass departure that began in the 1990s. Still, African Americans remained the largest ethnic or racial group in the city, although just barely over whites and Latinos. Oakland's black population plummeted by 23 percent in the last decade. Richmond, the East Bay's other major black stronghold, lost the same percentage, as tens of thousands of African Americans moved out of the East Bay's urban core to the suburbs.

Much of the East Bay, meanwhile, experienced large gains among Asians and Latinos — except Oakland's Fruitvale district, the *Contra Costa Times* reported. In fact, Latinos became the largest ethnic or racial group in Richmond for the first time, replacing blacks.

The demographic changes also could impact the East Bay's liberal political voice. The *CoCo Times* reported that relatively slow growth in the East Bay could result in the loss of legislative seats in Sacramento and Washington DC. The district of Democratic Congresswoman **Barbara Lee** of Oakland is considered one of the most at risk of being consolidated. Other districts in peril include those held by state Senator **Loni Hancock** of Berkeley and Assemblymember **Sandre Swanson** of Alameda.

## Brown Misses His Budget Deadline

Governor Brown missed his self-imposed March 10 deadline for gaining approval of his budget package as Republicans continued to object to his plan for tax-extension measures on the June ballot. Brown has been negotiating in recent weeks with a group of centrist state senators, the so-called GOP 5, to reach a compromise. The Republicans reportedly want concessions on public-employee pension plans and other issues.

Brown, however, was running out of time to call for a June election. The *CoCo Times* reported that the governor decided that going directly to voters in November won't work and that he must reach a deal with the GOP because Californians will never approve his tax measures unless they garner some bipartisan support in Sacramento.

## Three-Dot Roundup

Alameda's **Measure A**, the schools parcel tax, won with 68.4 percent of the vote, surpassing the two-thirds needed. It could raise up to $12 million annually for the district. ... Two Oakland cops who shot and killed an unarmed Oakland barber will not face criminal prosecution, the **Alameda County District Attorney's Office** said. Prosecutors concluded that officers **Eriberto Perez-Angeles** and **Omar Daza-Quiroz** broke no laws when they shot **Derrick Jones** to death last fall. The cops said they thought Jones was reaching for a gun in his waistband but it turned out to be a small scale. ... A Contra Costa County sheriff's deputy resigned after investigators discovered that he was part of a plot to get husbands drunk and arrest them for DUI in order to help their wives win divorce cases. ... The **California Public Utilities Commission** issued a deadline to **PG&E** to offer an opt-out program for the utility's controversial **SmartMeters** program. The opt-out would allow PG&E customers to block PG&E from installing the meters on their homes. ... The push to force **Amazon.com** to collect sales taxes from its customers is spreading throughout the nation. Illinois recently approved a law that targets the giant online retailer and is similar to one in the California Legislature.

And Emeryville's **Oaks Card Club** got the green light to reopen as long as its keep its Asian gaming section closed. Federal agents raided the club after they discovered that the head of the Asian gaming section was allegedly involved in loan sharking. ●

*Seven Days is culled from our news blog, 92510.*

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LEGALIZATION NATION

# WHO IS BUYING MEDICAL POT?

A new RAND study reveals that it might not be who you think

David Downs

Judging from the breathless coverage that California's medical cannabis industry gets in places like Arizona and the Midwest, you'd think the average "patient" is a strapping, healthy, 18-year-old stoner looking to score an eighth before a night of intoxicated driving and unprotected sex with a minor. But there's actually very little research on just who gets cannabis recommendations in the state. Privacy advocates proudly note that California residents needn't share medical records with authorities to obtain the drug — unlike Colorado, Arizona, and other alleged libertarian strongholds.

But this week, a new study from the independent think tank **RAND Corporation** shines a light on some of the hundreds of thousands of medical cannabis patients in California. Released in the April issue of the *Journal of Drug Policy Analysis*, "An Analysis of Applicants Presenting to a Medical Marijuana Specialty Practice in California" shows that more than half of patients are over 35, and 67.8 percent of them brought medical records to their appointment. Seventy-three percent have health insurance and 68.7 percent are employed. Most sought relief from pain, insomnia, and tension, and 79.5 percent of patients had previously tried prescription medications. More than 50 percent of the sample reported they had used or were using marijuana as a substitute for prescription drugs.

For the study, RAND obtained 2006 data from **MediCann** of Oakland, one of the largest medical cannabis-chain clinics, and reviewed information on 1,655 patients from a three-month period at nine locations across California. **Dr. Helen Nunberg**, lead author of the RAND paper, worked at MediCann as a physician from 2005 to 2010. A former family practice doctor with a master's degree in public health from UC Berkeley, Nunberg said she saw an opportunity for some live epidemiology at MediCann. "It's rare to get a data set like this," she explained. "It's significant. It's large, and with the help of RAND, it was well done."

But there are some qualifications to the study, starting with whether the data can be generalized. In California, medical cannabis patients must first see a licensed physician and get a recommendation. That physician can be the patient's primary doctor, but is often a specialist at a clinic such as MediCann, which has 21 locations. However, to scientifically understand California's medical cannabis patients, you'd need to randomly sample the entire population, not just one chain clinic. As a result, "the [MediCann] sample is not generalizable to all individuals applying for a medical marijuana recommendation as it only represents those individuals selecting this particular network of physicians," RAND noted.

Clinics tend to be for people who are not undergoing treatment for AIDS and cancer, so "I definitely think there's going to be sampling bias," said UC lecturer **Amanda Reiman**, who has a doctorate in social work and is research director of **Berkeley Patients Group**, a large East Bay dispensary. "You're probably going to track patients with less serious illnesses."

It's still valuable information, Reiman said. MediCann's sample paints a portrait that looks surprisingly benign — like the same people you'd see buying Tylenol or Advil at the drug store. "Lower back pain, insomnia, anxiety are very, very common in the general population," Reiman said. "Remember that, head-to-head, cannabis really is one of the safest substances for someone to take as a remedy for pain or insomnia or anxiety or depression, compared to some of the other treatments that are out on the market.

"It's not surprising that more people are looking to cannabis — as it becomes less stigmatized and more of a normative practice — to deal with some of these more common ailments," she continued. "Before, maybe they'd go get a Vicodin prescription or prescription-strength Tylenol. Now they may be going to cannabis as a first method of treatment." Indeed, substituting pot for pills "is a very common occurrence," she said.

The sample also showed about 12 percent of women respondents were on six prescription medications or more, a notably large amount. "It's a lot," she said.

"That has spurred this interest in using cannabis as a substitute for prescription drugs. Not only because they are on so many drugs, but because they can use cannabis as a substitute for more than one type of medication," she added. "For example, I've heard from patients who are on two separate prescription medications for both insomnia and pain that are able to just use cannabis and eliminate both of them."

RAND said more study would be needed to find out if pot could create health-care savings.

The data also buttresses the idea of a persistent gender gap in patients. Of those seeking recommendations, 73 percent were male. That's roughly equal to the black market — 70 percent male. The biggest reason for the gender gap is fear, Reiman theorizes. Women using pot while pregnant or taking care of a child can get in trouble over medical marijuana. "Many don't feel as safe as a male in going and being out about cannabis use, given what might happen if child protective services found out," she said.

Also, dispensaries appear to be fast-replacing baby boomers' kids as a hook-up for pot. A third of MediCann patients were over 45. By comparison, the median age of black market pot buyers is about 26, according to federal drug use statistics on adults.

Most of all, the report shows the need for more unbiased scientific data on who is getting cannabis recommendations in California, the researchers said. Otherwise, important public policy and health-care choices will be made without the facts.

The **National Institute on Drug Abuse** recently issued its first-ever call for researchers to analyze the trends and impacts of "quasi-natural experiments" in medical marijuana.

(Read the full RAND report online on the Legalization Nation blog.) ●

David.Downs@gmail.com

This column is culled from our blog of the same name.

ECO WATCH

# STRIPERS IN A COURT OF LAW

Environmentalists believe a group that says it wants to protect salmon actually wants more water for big agribusiness.

By Alastair Bland

For years, the **California Department of Fish and Game** has managed and protected striped bass in the delta even though it's a nonnative species that eats an endangered one — namely, the winter-run **Chinook** salmon. But a three-year court battle could result in a decision this week that would lessen protections on California's striped bass and open it up to more fishing. The group behind the lawsuit argues that such a move could restore declining salmon populations, but many environmentalists are suspicious. They believe the real reason for the lawsuit is about securing more water for big agribusiness.

The federal court lawsuit was brought by the **Coalition for a Sustainable Delta**. This group, made up of water users and farmers in the San Joaquin Valley, argues that striped bass are eating Chinook salmon toward extinction and that bass — not the diversion of water to farms — are the primary reason for why the once tremendous commercial fall-run of Chinook in the Sacramento River has experienced a precipitous decline in recent years. "Does it make sense that we protect a nonnative species at the expense of a native one?" asked **Michael Boccadoro**, spokesman for the Coalition for a Sustainable Delta.

But numerous biologists, conservationists and fishermen contend that there is no conclusive evidence that bass are the prime cause of the salmon's decline. And they note that the coalition is supported by agricultural interests, which also have fought against federal and state laws that protect salmon. "These people want more water," said **Jim Cox**, a sport fishing guide in Bay Point and president of the **West Delta Chapter of the California Striped Bass Association**. "They're desperate to blame the drop in salmon on something other than too much water being pumped south."

San Joaquin Valley farmers rely on generous diversions of the Sacramento River's water to irrigate their fields and orchards. Water is sent their way via two large pumps near Stockton. Biologists have found these pumps to kill large numbers of fish, including salmon, and have named them as the leading cause for the Sacramento River salmon collapse.

The volume of water pumped out of the **Sacramento/San Joaquin River Delta** has grown substantially in the past two decades. Almost simultaneously, delta fish populations have plummeted to all-time lows. According to numbers from the **California Department of Water Resources** and federal fishery agencies, less than three million acre-feet of water left the delta through the pumps in 1992. That rate has crept upward over the years, and in 2005, 6.3 million acre-feet of water was pumped out of the delta. Between 2002 and 2005 alone, pumping rates increased by 28 percent. In 2008, biologists observed the lowest return of fall-run Chinook salmon ever in the Sacramento: 66,000 fish, down from 800,000 in 2002. In 2009, just 39,000 returned. Presumably, huge numbers of juveniles perished in 2005 and 2006, resulting in the absence of adults in the following years.

But Boccadoro, spokesman for the Coalition for a Sustainable Delta, contends that pumps are just one of many "stressors" and that striped bass are of equal detriment to salmon. To cull numbers of striped bass, the coalition wants the state to eliminate the two-fish daily bag limit and 18-inch minimum size limit that striped bass fishermen currently must observe.

But the striped bass population is hardly a vigorous one itself, and its numbers have plunged from prior levels. In December, results from the Department of Fish and Game's annual "midwater trawl survey," conducted each fall to provide a snapshot of species abundance, found six species, including delta smelt and striped bass, to be hovering at their lowest levels ever observed in the annual sampling. "All the evidence that I've seen indicates that when striper numbers go up, so do salmon numbers, and when striper numbers go down, so do salmon numbers," said Sacramento attorney **Mike Jackson**, who represents several intervenors in the coalition's lawsuit. "There's no question that stripers eat salmon smolts in the spring, but they've been doing that since 1879" — the year striped bass were introduced to California. The two species, he says, coexisted for more than a century before their numbers began to decline.

**Peter Moyle**, a UC Davis professor of fish biology, suspects the anti-striped bass campaign to be a ploy. In a January 31 entry at **CaliforniaWaterBlog.com**, he wrote: "Reducing striped bass and other predator populations is unlikely to make a difference in saving endangered fishes, and will serve only to distract attention from the real problems." In an interview for this story, Moyle said the "best solution" for stabilizing fish numbers would be to shut off the delta pumps. If such action is not feasible, though, then the "second best solution," he said, would be to remove water from the system via alternate means. Moyle believes the much-discussed and controversial "peripheral canal," if installed well upstream of the delta and maintained cautiously "with ironclad guarantees" that the amount of water exported would never increase, could save the ecosystem.

At March 17 at a hearing in Fresno, US District Judge **Oliver Wanger** could approve a proposed settlement in the coalition's lawsuit that would require the Fish and Game Commission to rewrite — and presumably weaken or eliminate — the sport fishing regulations on striped bass. State legislation sponsored by groups of water users intended to do the same has already failed twice in the past two years.

"The coalition just wants to get rid of stripers for now, and then they'll turn to something else," Cox said. Ignoring more fundamental problems in the ecosystem, he argued, will lead to the decline of still more species. "Then maybe ten years in the future, there will be nothing left worth protecting in the delta, and then they could go ahead and take all the water they want." ●

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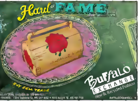

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# OAKLAND CLUB OWNERS FIGHT BACK

They've formed an alliance and hope to bring an end to unfair city enforcement and excessive police overtime costs

By Rachel Swan

It's a shaky time for clubs in Oakland. Late last year, any venue with more than one pool table received a letter from City Hall stating that it officially qualified as a "pool hall" and would therefore have to pay a one-time fee of $1,040. Clubs with arcade games got a similar notice, also requesting payment of a $1,000 permit. Then the city sent out letters to clubs that rent their facilities to outside promoters, saying that most such events require a $30 "special activities" permit. In fact, special activities fees, which are set by the city council, run much higher than that. An event that's expected to draw one hundred to three hundred people, like the Friday night dance parties at **Maxwell's Lounge**, requires a $100 fee. The fee for a "large" event with 301 or more people is $150.

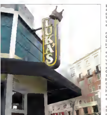
And that's just the tip of the iceberg. Over the past several weeks, the *Express* has reported that some clubs are getting billed for police overtime even when their events cause no trouble, and thus have no need for police. Maxwell's owner Dr. **Darrell Edwards** said he's already paid $400 for one police overtime bill, and he has two more sitting on his desk. "They don't talk to me about it," Edwards said. "I just get them in the mail."

With the pool table panic compounded by special activities panic, and all that exacerbated by seemingly arbitrary enforcement policies and excessive police overtime costs, it's no surprise that Oakland club owners started to feel apprehensive. Last week, when assistant to the city administrator **Arturo Sanchez** called a meeting to give each club its license renewal agreement, **Luka's Taproom** owner **Rick Mitchell** arrived with a lawyer in tow. Mitchell and other club owners also formed the **Oakland Cabaret Alliance** to lobby for changes in city rules.

"I think my concern is the same as everybody else's was, when we saw those proposed new conditions," Mitchell said. "If we accepted them as they were presented to us, then there would be so much uncertainty in our day-to-day operations that we wouldn't really have any way of knowing if we were compliant at any one time."

Club owners note that under the city's guidelines, as written, OPD gets to arbitrarily decide which clubs require police overtime and how much they should pay — with no oversight and no input from anyone. The guidelines also provide for no appeals process should club owners believe that they're being overcharged.

The lawyer that Mitchell brought on board, **Alexandra Foote** of **Farber & Foote LLP**, volunteered to help sort through the cabaret rules. As the wife of **Plum** restaurant owner **Daniel Patterson**, Foote considers herself a stakeholder in downtown Oakland's entertainment district. She says her main job is to help the 45 cabarets interpret the language of their new contracts, and recommend changes if needed.



Luka's Taproom owner Rick Mitchell has joined with other club owners to form the Oakland Cabaret Alliance.

Rachel Swan

Sanchez, who now works in the office of Mayor **Jean Quan**, welcomed the idea and gave the club owners thirty days to negotiate. "Rick asked me to take a step back, and I said I'd be happy to do that," Sanchez said in an interview.

**Geoffrey Pete**, whose club **Geoffrey's Inner Circle** closed in 2009, feels optimistic about the alliance. His biggest problem with the current cabaret system is that it delegates too much power to the **Oakland Police Department**. Pete largely blames the cost of police overtime for shuttering his own venue. As this newspaper has reported, there's strong evidence that after Pete refused to pay thousands each month for police overtime, **Sergeant Kyle Thomas** fabricated a story about an alleged shooting, drug dealing, and fights in **Downtown Merchants Garage**, where Pete's customers parked. The garage then canceled Pete's long-term lease even though there had never been any complaints involving his patrons at the garage. Thomas later admitted that police had no record of a shooting, drug dealing, or fights inside the garage.

But last week, a federal judge dismissed Pete's lawsuit against OPD, ruling that there was not enough evidence to prove that the department violated his civil rights. Pete contends, however, that his lawsuit proved that there needs to be oversight of Oakland police by a third-party entity when it comes to clubs and excessive overtime charges. "I would like to see an entertainment commissioner paid for by the city independent of OPD that oversees a board that consists of cabaret owners, Oakland Police Department, and members of the community," he said. Pete added that in the past, cabaret owners haven't had a real advocate to leverage against the interests of the police, or of City Hall. And because there's no adequate system of checks and balances, police have been allowed to use local venues as a revenue source.

That said, both the cabarets and officials at City Hall agree on the importance of nightlife to the local economy. "They're the backbone of our downtown," Sanchez said. "Whether it's uptown or Jack London, these are the folks who are bringing people into Oakland." Foote echoed his sentiments, adding that nightlife is even more critical now that Oakland is on the verge of losing its redevelopment money. Indeed, no one wants a sterile downtown.

Most venue owners also don't mind paying for a reasonable amount of police overtime when they hold a large event. But some cite instances in which OPD has clearly abused the system. Pete noted that when he tried to throw a birthday party at Sweet's Ballroom in 2009, OPD demanded that he hire eighteen officers in addition to his own security, creating an extra $7,600 expense. Pete said he got Assistant Chief **Howard Jordan** to intervene and bring the requirement down to eight officers, but the police unit in charge of determining how much club owners should pay for overtime ultimately shut his party down anyway. The *Express* reported last week that the officer who shut down Pete's party — **Michael Morse** — after Pete balked at paying overtime for eighteen cops also was the highest overtime earner in the department last year, pocketing more than $168,000 in OT. Pete says it's an example of what can happen when the police have "total discretion."

Moreover, the definition of a "special event" is rather ambiguous, and could be interpreted many different ways, said Councilwoman **Rebecca Kaplan**, who is currently working to refine the language of Oakland's cabaret laws. "I'm also having conversations with people about working on a more deep, systemic change to how special events are handled," Kaplan said. The councilwoman explained that ultimately she envisions a system in which OPD doesn't always have the last word on how much clubs and event organizers have to pay for police overtime.

But other venues see the restrictions on pool tables and arcade games as a big thorn in their side, too. With that in mind, they might lobby to repeal sections of the municipal code, which deems any club with more than one pool table a "pool hall," and any venue with arcade games an "arcade." **Stork Club** owner **Tom Chittock** already took his own preemptive strike. He removed the Stork's second pool table in November, shortly after the first series of letters went out. He said $1,000 was too much to pay, especially when his two pool tables only made half that much per year. ●

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NO DOGS ALLOWED IN PARK

Some opponents of the proposed dog run are concerned about the loss of open space. Nate Seltenrich

# DOG PARK DIVIDES LAKE MERRITT

Thirteen years in the making, the proposed Lakeview Dog Park meets its fiercest resistance yet.

By Nate Seltenrich

The question comes up again and again. Why would anyone oppose a dog park? But opponents of the proposed **Lakeview Dog Park** at the north end of Lake Merritt say they have a good reason. The high-visibility location is simply inappropriate for a dog park. Now, as opposition to the park has mounted in recent weeks, heated arguments, emotional missives, and brazen name-calling have swelled on online neighborhood forums. Councilwomen **Nancy Nadel** and **Pat Kernighan** have stepped in to moderate. The only question left is whether the long-awaited dog run will ever get built.

The Lakeview Dog Park has been in the works since 1998. Dogs are not currently allowed off-leash anywhere around Lake Merritt, and are banned from all of its green spaces. The notion of a dog play area near the lake was first integrated into the Lake Merritt Park Master Plan in 2002. Oakland's Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee approved the park in 2006, but cost concerns stalled the project. This past December, the park appeared to finally be on the verge of breaking ground after receiving approval from the committee a second time. But now, even if the park succeeds in gaining final approval from the city, it won't be without a bitter, divisive fight.

The opponents' view is clear: Dog parks are great, but the location's all wrong. Planned for the northeastern corner of **Lakeside Park**, where MacArthur Boulevard and Lakeshore Avenue meet, the 21,000-square-foot run would occupy one of the most visible and highly trafficked intersections in the city. It would also require a portion of a popular playing field to be fenced off and covered with wood chips.

**Steve Saffold**, who owns a dog and lives in the nearby Cleveland Heights neighborhood, is concerned about the loss of green space at what he considers to be the heart of Oakland, where people come from miles around to enjoy the outdoors, eat, drink, and shop. The dog park would be immediately visible from the Grand Avenue freeway off-ramp, adjacent to a popular child's playground, and across the street from the weekly **Grand Lake Farmers' Market**.

"This is about a land-use choice, at maybe the key location in all of the city: whether to keep this precious resource of unprogrammed open space that we already have," he said. "We have this, in the greatest location in the city. And it looks like we're going to surrender it to a fenced, wood-chipped dog area. That just seems like a questionable land-use choice for the future of the city."

Saffold and a number of other concerned residents have banded together to spread the word about the current plans. A new Facebook group called **Save Astro Park**, referring to the name of the nearby playground, has accrued about sixty supporters since forming in late February. **Gilbert Vahanian**, who also lives nearby, is among them. He doesn't have a dog, but says he plans to get one soon for his five-year-old son. "We do love dogs," he said. "We have lots of dog owners in the group."

"No one has convinced me of the cost-benefit analysis of taking away the green space and replacing it with a dog park," he continued. "I don't question that we need to have an area for dogs. I just don't know if the work has been done, or I haven't been shown the work, that shows that's the best place for it."

Opponents are concerned that the dog run could introduce unpleasant odors into a highly public area. They fear that a large concentration of canines in one space could pose a safety threat to toddlers and small children at the playground. And they worry that the already busy neighborhood would be unable to accommodate an increased demand for parking.

Dog park supporters dispute their opponents on nearly every point. "I think people are worrying about an issue of appearance, in the park, that won't be an issue," said **Emily Rosenberg**, co-founder of the **Oakland Dog Owners Group**, which has worked on the issue for more than a decade, beginning with the collection of 740 petition signatures in 1999. The dog run's proposed four-foot cyclone fence would be covered with green vines, she said. "I think there will be very little visual impact on the park. It's going to look lovely."

As far as the playing field goes, before Oakland Dog Owners Group got involved, the center of the lawn was too swampy for use, said Rosenberg, who lives in Montclair. In 2005, she said, her group worked with Oakland's Department of Public Works to fill in the middle of the field, mitigating any potential impacts of the dog run. Later in 2008, the dog area's proposed footprint was reduced. On top of that, she said, it's planned for a corner of the lawn that sees very little activity and would not impinge on other user groups.

Still, Rosenberg concedes that the busy location may not be entirely ideal. "We did have many other choices that the dog owners might've preferred, but this is all the city gave us," she said. "This is a compromise all around."

As the anti-dog park contingent has begun to organize, Rosenberg and other dog park backers have garnered new support from nearby residents, many of whom have been polarized by the debate. **Cindy Fong**, who lives within walking distance of Lake Merritt in Cleveland Heights, said she initially had concerns about losing part of the lawn area, but now falls firmly on the pro-park side. "It's a good thing for the neighborhood," said. "For the benefit of losing a little green space, it's a big plus."

Word of the controversy made its way to the offices of Nadel and Kernighan, and now both have stepped into the fray. Nadel, who did not respond to requests for comment, has posted in support of the dog park on neighborhood forums. "Please be respectful of years of other people's work that hasn't always been on everyone's radar screen because of limited funds but is now finally coming close to fruition," she wrote to a Cleveland Heights group. Nadel also announced that if this proposal doesn't go through, she won't be able to provide additional staff time or money in search of a new location on Lake Merritt.

Kernighan, whose district is adjacent to the proposed dog park's border, says she's concerned that constituents were not adequately consulted during the ten-year planning process. "In retrospect, it's clear that the planning was done by an energetic and well-intentioned group of people, but there was not very much outreach to the broader community about it," she said. Since inviting residents to e-mail her their opinions in late February, she's received hundreds of responses, she said, with opponents initially outnumbering proponents by a wide margin.

In order to invite further public discussion of the dog park, Kernighan has set a community meeting for Wednesday, Mar. 23, in **Lakeshore Avenue Baptist Church**'s Barnett Hall (3544 Lakeshore Avenue, Oakland) at 7 p.m. Nadel, as well as four neighboring community associations, will also be represented. The Lakeside Dog Park's construction is still pending a minor conditional use permit from Oakland's Planning Commission and approval from both the Life Enrichment Committee and the full city council.

Saffold is happy to see the increased attention. "Anybody who lives in Oakland should care about this space," he said. "This is a place where Oaklanders from all over the city come to spend their leisure time. It's incumbent upon people to treat it that way." ●

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Records and data definitively show that each year fishermen kill tens of millions of sharks worldwide solely for their fins.

Stephen Loewinsohn

# Sharks Left For Dead

Lovers of shark fin soup say it's a cultural tradition, but science proves its brutal and inhumane.

By Hannah Dreier

**Pacific Seafood Trading Company,** in the heart of Oakland's Chinatown district, looks innocuous. Women with pink grocery bags and men pushing wire carts scurry by the corner store at 8th and Franklin streets. Inside, amid the gingko and dried roots, a pungent, earthy smell fills the air. At first glance, you'd never know that shops such as this one have become a battleground in a raging debate that pits charges of racism against animal cruelty.

But then the shark fins come into view. Dried and stacked by the hundreds in bins and baggies at the back of the store, some fins carry the blues and grays of the sea. Others have been stripped and bleached, but their spooky sleekness still calls to mind visions of the apex predator.

Across the street, a sign in the window of the **New Gold Medal Restaurant** advertises shark fin soup for $30 a bowl — a relative bargain. To make the delicacy, cooks soak and boil fins from Pacific Seafood Trading Company and then strip off the threads of collagen. Shark fin soup was once a rarity reserved for the ruling classes, but as the Chinese middle class and expatriate communities have grown rapidly in the past two decades, demand for this traditional symbol of wealth has skyrocketed, as have prices.

Most of the herb shops in Chinatown feature fins tacked to the wall in bags, arranged in glass jars behind the register, or packed into plastic boxes emblazoned with the suggestion "perfect gift." Prices run as high as $600 a pound, with a moderately priced fin going for about $35.

On a recent weekday evening, some New Gold Medal patrons thought the soup was a bit overrated. A teenage boy said it was gelatinous, while an older woman said the soup is watered down these days, not as good as it used to be. Still, polling shows that shark fin soup is no rarity here. About two-thirds of Asian Americans in the Bay Area say they've tried it, although most eat it only occasionally. Diners at New Gold Medal said it's not an everyday food, but it makes special events special.

Oakland resident **Christopher Chin** used to feel the same way. When he was growing up, a wedding just wasn't a wedding without shark fin soup, he said. But then the scuba diving instructor renounced the delicacy after experiencing an epiphany while staring into the eyes of a bull shark in Fiji. "It was like when you're having a conversation with someone and they hold the gaze," he recalled. "It's a rare thing even among humans. I suddenly realized this animal was sentient." Chin later founded Oakland's **Center for Oceanic Awareness, Research, and Education**, which seeks to get people to think about where their seafood comes from.

But getting shopkeepers in Oakland's Chinatown to think about it is another matter. They're happy to discuss soaring fin prices or their product's medicinal and culinary value, but ask where the fins originated, and you get shrugs or vague references to Mexico or Hong Kong.

But the question how shark fins make their way to Chinatown shops and restaurants is at the heart of a showdown that has been playing out in California since two Bay Area assemblymen introduced a bill last month that would ban the sale and import of fins.

Opponents of the proposed ban say it represents an unfair attack on Chinese-American culture and cuisine. They also contend that sharks aren't just killed for their highly prized fins, but also for their meat. "Costco sells shark meat," said Democratic state Senator **Leland Yee** at a press conference after the legislation was introduced. Yee, who is running for mayor of San Francisco, has come out strongly against a ban. "So those sharks that come in — what are you going to do with that fin?"

But are sharks really being caught for their meat? And are shark fins just leftover byproducts that would otherwise be thrown away? According to numerous scientific studies and international trade statistics, the answer is a resounding "no."

Records and studies definitively show that nearly all shark fins are harvested through the cruel practice of "finning," whereby fishermen slice the fins off a sometimes still living shark and throw the body back into the ocean, where the animal bleeds out in a slow, horrible death. "When you kick sharks over the edge" of a boat, explained **John McCosker**, who is one of the world's foremost shark experts and a chairman of aquatic biology for the **California Academy of Sciences** in San Francisco, "they spiral downward in that death spiral and lay on the bottom until they die."

In recent weeks, proponents of shark fin soup also have argued that the proposed California ban would unfairly harm legitimate fishermen who do not kill sharks solely for their highly prized fins. They contend that governments just need to do a better job at patrolling the seas and enforcing existing laws that make it illegal to harvest shark fins and throw what's left of the fish overboard.

But the worlds' oceans are vast, of course, and international trade data and scientific studies show that various fishing bans around the globe have done little to slow the burgeoning shark fin trade. Instead, the laws have spawned massive amounts of illegal finning that goes undetected by authorities.

As a result, experts say the only effective way to curtail the worldwide slaughter of sharks is for governments to ban the actual sale and import of their fins. And such a ban in California, because of its huge market, could reverberate around the nation and the globe.

In the Pacific Ocean, longliner boats typically fish for tuna or swordfish, not shark. Boat crews spend weeks on the high seas, setting out fifty miles of line at night with baited hooks every 200 feet. As the boat begins to move, a reel that resembles a massive cotton spool pulls the line up. The crew checks the hooks as they pass by, tossing tuna into the hull and "bycatch," such as drowned turtles and birds, back into the sea.

Hooked sharks present a more complicated task. The crew usually lops off the four valuable

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fins and part of the tail, then throws the animal overboard, all before the next hook comes in. If the shark is alive, they strike it with a quick blow to the spinal column. But in the assembly-line rush, they do not always aim correctly. Often, the animal is hacked apart as it thrashes and then is plunged back into the water to bleed to death on the ocean floor.

In many ways, sharks are victims of their own evolutionary success. Thanks to their incredibly sensitive sense of smell, these predators can hone in on baited hooks from miles away. According to a 2006 study published in the scientific journal *Ecology Letters* that is widely viewed as the definitive count of shark fins in the global market, 23 to 73 million sharks are killed annually to supply the fin trade.

For longliners, about 95 percent of a shark's carcass is trash — not worth the effort or the space it would occupy in the ship's hull. Why? Shark meat is suffused with urea. A primeval animal with a primitive kidney system, sharks carry urine in their blood. McCosker explained that if the animal is not bled out, gutted, and frozen shortly after death, it becomes impossible to clean.

And even if fishermen go through the hassle of properly cleaning shark meat, it's essentially worthless on the global market. In 2006, the **Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency** — a fishery management group — concluded, "Fins are by far the most valuable part of the shark. Low prices or non-existent markets for shark meat discourage further retention."

Indeed, shark meat exported from the United States goes for only $1 a pound — fifty times less than shark fin. "Even if markets could be found for shark meat," the Fisheries Agency report continued, "certain biological characteristics make it unlikely that [commercial] vessels would take the time to properly handle and store sharks caught."

Shark meat, in other words, just isn't worth it for most fishermen. In fact, Costco — contrary to Yee's claim — stopped carrying shark meat years ago because of lack of demand, according to the chain's US seafood buyer. More recently, the chain agreed not to carry shark or a host of other threatened fish in the future because of environmental concerns. Safeway and other major supermarket chains do not carry the meat for similar reasons. Berkeley Bowl sometimes sells mako shark for $7.49 a pound, but the store has trouble maintaining a consistent inventory.

Stephen Loewinsohn

Shark fins sell for up to $600 a pound.

Fins, by contrast, are highly valuable, and because they can be air-dried on the ship's rigging and stored compactly, they're essentially free money. "Because there's such a high profit margin," Chen noted, "fishermen would be fools not to take the fins."

Typically, when the longline boat docks, the captain distributes the fins among the crew as a bonus. Dealers buy them at port with cash in hand and send them in crates to Hong Kong for processing. Once they are packaged for trade, the fins are shipped around the world.

Environmentalists recognize that longlining, popularized in the 1970s, is here to stay. But they would like longline fishermen to tie their hooks with nylon, which only sharks can bite through, or to stop setting lines at night, when sharks feed. As long as sharks keep getting hooked, their fins will be hacked off and their bodies discarded to save space for more valuable catch.

In fact, the evidence of the brutal shark fin trade is overwhelming. According to the most recent report from the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, published in 2005, of all sharks reeled in at sea, more than 92 percent are ultimately thrown overboard. The discard rate for sharks is more than ten times higher than the rate for marine life as a whole.

Christopher Chin had an epiphany about sharks while staring into the eyes of one in Fiji. [illegible]

A study from Imperial College London found that even when sharks are not finned and tossed overboard, much of their meat goes to waste. The study compares the weight of all shark carcasses brought in from sea annually to the weight of all shark products sold on the global market each year. Although researchers found evidence that there has been some increase in worldwide shark meat consumption over the last several decades, they concluded that at least two-thirds of viable shark meat that comes into port never reaches the marketplace.

In addition, a 2006 Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries agency that involved scientific observers on longline fishing boats in the tropics found that between 59 and 76 percent of the sharks captured were finned. The deeper the line, the more likely that sharks were hooked, had their fins hacked off and then were dumped back in the ocean to die.

Another 2006 study of the eastern Pacific Ocean found that 85 percent of total shark and ray catch was discarded. Blue sharks made up 89 percent of the total shark catch. All of them were finned.

And a 1999 report from the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations looked at finning rates in the Pacific Ocean, also based on observer data. The most common catch was blue shark, and 85 percent of them were finned. Of the silky sharks captured, 48 percent were finned. And of the whitetip sharks caught, 60 percent were finned.

In short, study after study has come to the same conclusion: Sharks aren't caught for their meat. They're hacked apart so that people can sip expensive soup.

Still, for many in the Bay Area's Asian-American community, a proposed ban on the sale and import of shark fins is viewed as a cultural — even racist — attack. The problem, they say, is not their age-old tradition of enjoying shark fin soup, but widespread illegal fishing practices.

Chinese-American market and restaurant owners have joined forces with fishermen and seafood processors to paint the proposed ban, which resembles a Hawaii law passed last spring, as discriminatory and unnecessary. **Selina Low**, a manager at ***East Ocean Seafood Restaurant*** in Alameda, echoed the common refrain that plenty of shark meat is sold in the Bay Area, and not all fins are derived from illegal practices. "The poachers are giving restaurants a bad reputation," she said. "If you outlaw shark fins, you might as well ban chicken, pork, and beef."

**Taylor Chow**, owner of **American Tai Wah Trading Corporation** in Oakland and spokesman for the **Oriental Food Association**, stakes out a similar position. "We have no reason to be ashamed about our shark fin-eating culture," he said. "About a thousand years ago, the Chinese already knew to use every single part of the shark, including shark fin, which in

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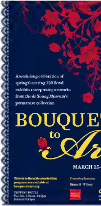

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other places is regarded as scrap."

San Francisco fin processor **Michael Kwong** argues that instead of pushing for bans environmentalists should help the state crack down on suppliers who break domestic laws. Kwong's family has been involved with what he calls "the craft of fin production" since 1967 operating as the **Hop Woo Company**. Turned off by the headache of dealing with importing, Kwong gets only about 15 percent of his stock from the shark fin mecca of Hong Kong. The rest comes from East Coast and Gulf of Mexico fishermen who land sharks with their fins attached. The price is higher, he said, but it's worth it to save himself customs delays. After he takes the fins, the shark's meat is used for such things as fish food, while the creatures' jaws are sold at tourist shops.

Last month, Kwong stood with Senator Yee and denounced the proposed California ban on the sale and import of shark fins, arguing that it punishes those who derive most of their product from sustainable sources and unfairly targets Asians. As for the fraction of his fins that come from Hong Kong, Kwong condemned the practice of finning, but said there wasn't much he could do. "I don't own the boat. I can't control someone that's two hundred miles out."

But seafood businesses like Kwong's are not the norm in California and laws around the globe that ban finning — but not the sale of shark fins — have proven to be mostly futile. According to UN figures, the number of shark fins sold worldwide exploded in the past two decades. In 1985, international seafood markets reported exporting 2,699 metric tons of shark fins. By 1999, exports had grown by 76 percent to 4,763 metric tons. By 2004, they had shot up to 6,220 metric tons. In two decades the international shark fin market skyrocketed by more than 130 percent.

> ACCORDING TO UNITED NATIONS FIGURES, THE NUMBER OF SHARK FINS SOLD WORLDWIDE EXPLODED IN THE PAST TWO DECADES. GLOBAL EXPORTS GREW BY MORE THAN 130 PERCENT FROM 1985 TO 2004.

The Galapagos Marine Reserve, a world heritage site, is often cited as an example of the difficulty of implementing bans on finning. Officials there have seized up to 10,000 fins at a time, and have even caught poachers using endangered Galapagos sea lions and dolphins as bait. **Peter Knights**, a shark expert who founded the San Francisco environmental group **WildAid**, said trained sniffer dogs uncovered a new cache of fins poached from the Galapagos reserve just last month.

Finning is especially common in legally protected areas, Knights said, because it's too risky for fishermen to keep whole sharks on their boats. The bans on fishing in reserves, in other words, offer no incentive for fishermen to catch sharks and then sell their meat in a sustainable way. Instead, fishermen use small boats to quickly nab hundreds of sharks in a short period of time, hack off their fins, and throw the bulky carcasses back in the ocean — effectively fishing out the entire area without arousing suspicion. "Less than one percent of ocean is marine reserve, but they still go there," Knights said of the appeal that reserves hold for shark finners.

Stephen Loewinsohn

Officials in the Galapagos have seized up to 10,000 shark fins at a time.

Knights was one of the first to catch on to the large-scale decimation of sharks. Raised in England and educated at the London School of Economics, Knights could be described as the Indiana Jones of the preservationist world. He honed his eco-warrior skills working as an undercover ecological investigator, infiltrating local crime rings to uncover trade in illegal wildlife products such as bear bile and rhino horns.

In 1997, he was staking out a Taiwan marina for evidence of dolphin killing when he stumbled upon an entire dock covered with hundreds and hundreds of six-inch fins drying in the sun. "I thought, how on earth can this be sustainable?" he said. Three years later Knights cofounded WildAid, a group that aims to curb the shark trade worldwide.

Knights argues that bans on finning just aren't enough. For example, after the enactment of a shark finning ban in Hawaii in the summer of 2001 there was a 54 percent decline in US fin imports via Hong Kong. But without a corresponding drop in demand, this blow to a specific supply chain had little effect. The international fin trade has only grown in the years since, and the central Pacific continues to be a hot spot for the shark trade.

In the United States, federal law prohibits bringing sharks onshore without their fins attached, but a loophole allows the import of fins from countries that permit finning. With **AB 376**, Democratic state Assemblymen **Paul Fong** of Cupertino and **Jared Huffman** of San Rafael aim to strike a blow to the supply chain and consumer demand by completely banning the sale and import of shark fins in California.

Such a ban also could help turn the tide against shark finning throughout the nation and the world. According to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, San Diego and Los Angeles are the two top entry points for shark fins in the United States.

But AB 376 could face stiff opposition from conservative Republicans in Sacramento. A spokesman for Assemblyman **Bill Berryhill** of Stockton, who sits on the committee that

Pete Knights could be described as the Indiana Jones of the preservationist world. Stephen Loewinsohn

will hear the bill, suggested that it might place undue restrictions on local sport fishermen. "It could be unconstitutional, frankly," he said.

Environmentalists concede that fishermen who bring in sharks with fins attached do far less harm than those who strip-mine habitats by hacking sharks to death. But the only way to keep illegally or unethically obtained fins out of local Chinatowns, they say, is to impose a blanket ban.

For many years, the ecological consequences of the hyper-efficient, mostly unregulated shark hunt went unnoticed. While many fish have been protected for decades, sharks, who live a migratory life far from shore, were not closely monitored until recently. Scientists now know that despite their fearsome reputations, sharks are an ecologically weak species.

While most fish reproduce quickly and in great numbers, sharks, who can live as long as humans, take years to reach sexual maturity and gestate their young for up to two years. Forty years after the rise of longlining, one third of sharks, rays, and skates are threatened with extinction, and as many as 90 percent of sharks in the world's open oceans have disappeared, according to research published in the scientific journal *Nature*.

International laws protect only three species of shark. Great white, basking, and whale sharks come under the jurisdiction of the same UN body that protects tigers and giant pandas. Last year, eight additional shark species were put before the body to be considered for protection. None were accepted.

A decade ago, there also was no way to determine whether a dried fin came from a protected shark species. But, today, advances in DNA testing have made some monitoring possible. The technique was devised after federal agents spotted a suspicious bag on a routine visit to a seafood dealer. The large nylon sack destined for Asia was labeled "porbeagle" shark. But inside, agents found a hidden label that read "blanco" — white. Could the fins have been from great white sharks, the agents wondered? The DNA confirmed their fears. The fins came from 21 sharks, all great whites — mostly pups.

"SHARKS AREN'T HUGGABLE LIKE PANDAS," SAID JOHN MCCOSKER, CHAIRMAN OF AQUATIC BIOLOGY FOR THE CALIFORNIA ACADEMY OF SCIENCES IN SAN FRANCISCO. "BUT THEY'RE WAY COOL."

Authorities discovered the cache in New York, but there's no reason to think that Bay Area fins come from shark species that are more abundant than great whites. The Hamilton Lab at the California Academy of Sciences ran DNA tests on fins picked up in San Francisco's Chinatown this year and found that over half of the sample came from sharks recognized as "vulnerable."

Scientists also say the ancient predator's increasing absence from the world's oceans is beginning to manifest itself in ecological imbalance. McCosker at the Academy of Sciences is concerned about the potential widespread impacts of shark finning. "I'm more worried about the health of the ocean, which is also in a downward spiral," he said.

For Christopher Chin, the key to ending the fin trade in California lies in spreading the sense of empathy with sharks that he discovered when coming face to face with one in Fiji. He is mostly optimistic. After all, Americans used to think of whales as man-eating monsters. Just look at *Moby Dick*. And elephants kill more people annually than sharks, yet ivory poachers are universally reviled.

"Sharks aren't huggable like pandas," McCosker noted. "But they're way cool."

Still, Chin is worried by the attitude he sees at the Berkeley Marina, where fishermen take trophy photos and sometimes pretend to kick their shark catches. And he is also troubled by what he sees as widespread — possibly willful — ignorance of where shark fins come from.

In any case, he believes that in the not-so-distant future, fins will disappear from Chinatown shops and restaurants. "The question," he said, "is only whether it happens before we run out of sharks." ●

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# EVENTS & ATTRACTIONS

## The Quiet Storm

Cut the Breakers aims to turn the volume down — way down

**Ryan Christopher Parks** knows loud. The musician, who writes and performs solo and as a member of Oakland rock group **B. Hamilton**, tends to favor multilayered arrangements, esoteric lyrics, and an unyielding bigness of both sound and lyrics. Suffice it to say, the coffeeshop scene doesn't entirely suit him. "I used to do this thing where I'd go up into the city and go to all these open mics with these wailish hippie-singer songwriters singing about trees and nature and shit," he recalls, "and I'd get up there and scare the hell out of them with songs about sex and death." But at the same time, as an artist committed to songwriting, Parks wants to play venues that won't require him to fight for attention. "There's no real place to play my kind of music other than, like, dickhead coffeeshops," he said. "And even there, chances are there's always something going on — people are talking, they're serving food. It's distracting."

So when his friend **Max Allstadt** — a Berklee College of Music-trained bassist — came to him with the idea of organizing an electricity-free music show, Parks jumped at the chance. Allstadt himself had been inspired after watching Daniel Higgs of Lungfish perform a set in his living room. "He actually went so far as to turn off all the lights and use no candles or anything. He played banjo in the dark with a mandolinist accompanying him," Allstadt said via e-mail. "It was really remarkable because something happened that never happens at shows. All the music geeks and all the hipsters in the audience suddenly shut the fuck up and gave Higgs their undivided attention. He was brilliant, and the whole moment was shockingly beautiful."

Parks eagerly jumped on board, and thus the inaugural **Cut the Breakers**, then called the Equinox Blackout, was born in Allstadt's West Oakland house last March. There was only one rule: no electricity allowed, period. They killed the lights, lit candles, and served red wine, which doesn't require refrigeration. The audience stayed mostly quiet, because they had to in order to hear the unamplified music. Musicians were allowed to play any genre and bring any instruments they wanted, just as long as they didn't require A/C power. Unlike most acoustic and so-called "unplugged" events, which almost always make use of amps, mics, and electronics of various kinds — not to mention lights — this one was truly electricity-free.

Since then, Allstadt has hosted two more iterations of the party, each drawing a larger number of people. The most recent one filled his living room, which prompted Allstadt to turn over the reins to Parks and move the show to **Hatch Gallery** (492 23rd St., Oakland). "This is something that should be more accessible than secret raves," Allstadt said. "It's gotta grow up and get out of the living room." On Sunday, March 20, almost a year to the day after Allstadt and Parks first pulled the plug, the show moves to its new venue, with Parks, **Anna Ash**, and **Ryan James** headlining. The gallery setting makes sense: Cut the Breakers is, after all, a concert with the high-concept ethos of an art show, an ideological stand as much as a creative experiment. "The idea is, if you want people to pay attention, you don't turn it up," Allstadt said. "You turn it down."

Moreover, Parks said, the ultra-acoustic format tends to weed out less adept musicians. "It's easy to mask poor musicianship under reverb and effects, but a dubbed chord or mumbled lyric is glaringly obvious in a stock-silent room. Don't get me wrong, I love the hell out of amplifiers," Parks said. "But you can fake it when you're loud. There's less tricks when you're quiet." 8 p.m., $5. 510-798-6566 or HatchGallery.org

*—Ellen Cushing*

## ATTRACTIONS

**Horticultural Walk: Botanical Africa** Tour the Garden's South Africa section at the height of Spring blooms. Led by horticulturist Meghan Hay. Thu., March 17, 10:30 a.m., $10. University of California Botanical Garden, 200 Centennial Dr., Berkeley, 510-643-2755, BotanicalGarden.Berkeley.edu.

## FAIRS, FESTIVALS & FIESTAS

**St. Patrick's Day Celebration** Featuring live music by [illegible]. Thu., March 17, 11-1 p.m., free. Frank Ogawa Plaza, 14th St. and Broadway, Oakland.

## GLBT

**Transgender Legal Clinic** AIDS Project East Bay and the Transgender Law Center sponsor a monthly legal clinic, where you can visit one-on-one with an attorney for thirty minutes to discuss transgender legal issues. Third Thursday of every month, 6-8 p.m. Transgender Law Center, 1800 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 415-865-0176, TransgenderLawCenter.org.

**Trip the Light Fantastic** Beginners are welcome to participate in two-step, East and West Coast swing, salsa, waltzes, line dancing and [illegible]. First and Third Friday of every month, 7:30-11 p.m., $10-$20 sliding scale. [illegible] 510-788-1343, TriptheLightFantastic.org. Lake Merritt Dance Center, 200 Grand Ave., Oakland, 510-504-2920, LakeMerrittDanceCenter.org.

## HEALTH & WELLNESS

**Cancer Support Group for Spanish-Speaking Women** Registration required; call 510-869-8213. Third and First Monday of every month, 4-6 p.m., free. Markstein Cancer Education and Prevention Center, 450 30th St., Room 2308, Oakland, 510-869-6833.

**Community Healing Night** With workshops and demos by professional healers and technicians. Refreshments provided. Fourth Wednesday of every month, 7-9 p.m., free. Rhythmix Cultural Works, 2513 Blanding Ave., Alameda, 510-865-5060, Rhythmix.org.

**Lecture and Horticultural Session: "The Healing Power of Humans — Gardens and Gardeners"** Fri., March 18, 7:30-9:30 p.m., $15. Scottish Rite Center, 1547 Lakeshore Dr., Oakland, 510-451-1903.

**Newly Diagnosed Cancer Workshop** With good medical support and group talk. Space is limited; call 925-933-0107 to register. Wednesdays, 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Continues through May 4. Free. Cancer Support Community, 3276 McNutt Ave., Walnut Creek, 925-933-0107.

**Nourishing the Mind-Body Connection** Free class workshop for cancer survivors. Call 510-869-8833 for information. Second and fourth Tuesday of every month, 1:15-2:30 p.m., free. Alta Bates Medical Center Summit Campus, 450 30th St., Oakland, 510-869-8735.

**Yoga Workshop: "Yoga and Healing Peace Within"** Led by Swamis. Sat., March 19, 8:30 p.m., $65. Scottish Rite Center, 1547 Lakeshore Dr., Oakland, 510-451-1903.

# PICKS

## Independent Theater Projects

All things considered, it'd be pretty easy to believe that today's youth are [illegible] doomed, what with the existence of *Teen Mom/Jersey Shore/Willow Smith*. But anyone worried about kids these days might do well to hit up the **Hillside Club** (2286 Cedar St., Berkeley) on Friday and Saturday, Mar. 18-19, for the latest iteration of **Independent Theater Projects**. For more than two decades, a small group of annually-changing Berkeley high school students has been funding, directing, producing, and staging a yearly show of three one-acts, completely independent of school drama programs or private youth theater companies. The lack of adult supervision allows the students to consistently put on plays that feature dark themes, absurdist humor, and preternaturally good acting — and that are much more interesting than what you might typically expect from a high-school production. Each year's selections are kept largely under wraps until show time, but previous shows have featured plays about characters including a foulmouthed hooker on the brink of suicide, a psychologically abusive man confronted by the kids she hurt, and a doomed, down-on-his-luck serial rapist who befriends an equally downtrodden dishwasher before being unceremoniously gunned down by a vindictive mob. Crackle-voiced Grease reboots, this ain't. 7:30 p.m. both nights, suggested donation: $7 students, $14 general. HillsideClub.org — *Ellen Cushing*

## "The Company We Keep"

**Robert and Dayna Baer** have quite the love story. They met at work, fell out of touch and reconnected. Despite the fact that both were married (but separated), they went out to a couple dinners and on a French skiing vacation, and the rest was history. Also, they're both former spies; that first meeting happened on a covert CIA mission in Beirut. (If this all sounds like a movie, that's because it is, sort of: The 2005 George Clooney vehicle *Syriana* is reportedly based on Robert's life.) He's also an influential columnist, author, and commentator on US foreign policy; she's a UC Berkeley alum. They released their first book together, a memoir called ***The Company We Keep: A Husband-and-Wife True-Life Spy Story*** earlier this month, and will be talking about it at Berkeley's **First Congregational Church** (2345 Channing Way, Berkeley) on Monday, Mar. 21, with former KPFA host **Aimee Allison**. 7:30 p.m., $12-$15. 510-967-4495 or KPFA.org/events — *E.C.*

Robert and Dayna Baer

## Richmond's Finest

**Richmond's Finest** is the name of the pugilistic competition happening Saturday, Mar. 19, at the **Richmond Auditorium** (403 Civic Center Plaza, Richmond). Part of the **USA Boxing** competition for Northern California, it'll feature a number of weight divisions competing for the right to move on to the Golden Gloves tournament in Indiana later this spring. The fight card is a deep one, with seven hours of boxing on the slate. The event is co-sponsored by the **Richmond Police Activities League**, which offers an after-school program where young fighters are trained in the sweet science; this weekend, they can show off what they learned. [illegible] Noon, $10-$15; kids under fifteen must be accompanied by a parent. USABoxingNorCal.org — *Kibby Kleiman*

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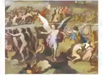
# MUSEUMS & GALLERIES

## Faith Accompli

Art from the missions provides food for thought.

The story of how the west was won has changed considerably since 1950s cowboy movies refought World War II in buckskin, inevitably concluding with bad men dying clean and good (as if stricken by narcolepsy), leaving quiet towns "fit for decent people" like the audience's capitalist white Protestants. America's multicultural diversity in recent years has led to a re-evaluation of the old myths: the civilizing, Christianizing mission of Europeans in the heathen, savage New World is now seen as rhetorical cover for a colonial, four-century-long land-and-labor grab. (Alas, our gringo wise men succumbed to millennial madness, faith-based reality, and resource wars. Meet the New World — same as the Old World.)



A detail from Jose Joaquin Esquibel's Last Judgment.

The curators of ***Splendors of Faith/Scars of Conquest: Arts of the Missions of Northern New Spain, 1600-1821***, **Clara Bargellini** and **Michael K. Komanecky**, are honest about colonialism and Catholicism's mixed legacy in Mexico and what became after 1848 the American Southwest, as the title of the show and the thoughtful essays in their catalog reveal. In 1493, a year after Columbus 'happened' on the Bahamas, the Pope granted to Spain's Ferdinand and Isabella the rights to proselytize in the New World. A century later, Franciscan and Jesuit priests began to establish missions and mission towns (called *reducciones*, reductions) that would save souls and train the neophyte converts in a settled, productive Europeanized way of life. Talk about Clash of Civilizations! Author David Weber contrasts the worldview of the nomadic, hunter/gatherer natives — "The whole world was sacred space, clouds, trees, stones, lakes, and animals" — with the Europeans — the Indians live, writes one missionary, "like cattle, without God, without law, without faith, without Princes, [and] without houses." According to Weber, "fear and force" underlay the colonial adventure, with the Indians, according to one sympathetic Spanish commander, subjected to "continuous work, nakedness, hunger, lack of liberty, and bad treatment," erupting into revolt every decade or so (the most famous example being Popé's Pueblo Revolt of 1680), only to be suppressed by the unholy trinity named by anthropologist Jared Diamond: guns, germs, and steel.

As somber and unsavory as this history is, however, the 110 artifacts in this show, which originated in Mexico and is now in its final venue, are stunners, artistically and historically. Many are beautifully restored, and due to their fragility probably never to be shown together again: maps, grammars, catechisms, liturgical objects (chalices, chasubles, monstras), baskets, and icons of all types — painted, sculpted, and woven. More about this high-fiber show coming next week. *Splendors of Faith/Scars of Conquest* runs through May 29 at the **Oakland Museum of California** (1000 Oak St., Oakland). 510-238-2200 or MuseumCA.org.

— *DeWitt Cheng*

## ART GALLERIES

**ACCI Gallery:** *As You Wish...* Intarsia and dolls by Lisa Bielenman, Paul Loughridge, Jill Lowe, Susan Taber, and Alexandra von Burg. Through March 20. 1652 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-843-2527, ACCIGallery.com.

**Berkeley Art Center:** *Identity* Work Center, on the theme of "identity" by students from various Berkeley public schools. Through March 20. 1275 Walnut St. (in Live Oak Park), Berkeley. 510-644-6893, BerkeleyArtCenter.org.

**Branch Gallery:** *Dreamtime* Photography by Aimee Friberg and Tabitha Soren. Through April 1. 455 17th St. Ste B301, Oakland, branch.bayvan.org/.

**Bridgehead Gallery:** *Spectacles of Devotion* Work by Barry Shapiro. Through April 1. 2516 Blanding Ave., Alameda, (510) 523-3686, bridgeheadstudios.com.

**Chandra Cerrito Contemporary:** *Flux* Acrylic paintings by Dianne Romaine. Through March 19. *Lunaria* Work by Sabine Reckewell. Through March 26. 480 23rd Street, Oakland. 510-260-7494, ChandraCerrito.com.

**The Compound Gallery:** *The Observers* Sculpture by Christopher Roman. Through April 24. 1167 65th Street, Oakland. 510-227-4842, thecompoundgallery.com/.

**Expressions Gallery:** *All You Need Is Love* Group show featuring work by Elizabeth Dante, Marge Essel, Debbie Fenelle, and many others. Through March 25. 2035 Ashby Ave., Berkeley. 510-644-4930, ExpressionsGallery.org.

**Firehouse North:** [illegible] New work. Through April 30. 1790 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley.

**Float Gallery:** *Gender/Terrain* Black-and-white photography by Cathy Shane and sculpture of Ed Kirchner. Through March 18. 1091 Calcot Pl., Oakland. 510-535-1702, TheFloatCenter.com.

**Garage Gallery:** *Dreaming and Heaven.* Drawings by John Jaha. Through March 27. Free. 3011 Wheeler St., Berkeley.

**Kala Gallery and Art Institute:** *Paintings of Palestine* Drawings and collage by Sonya Rapoport. With an opening reception Fri., Mar. 11, 6 p.m.-8 p.m., and an artist's talk Sat., Mar. 26, 2 p.m. Through April 9, free. *Paintings of Abstraction* Work by Samia Halaby, curated by Ben Cohn and Amnesty Vazan. Through April 9. 1060 Heinz Ave., Berkeley. 510-549-2977, Kala.org.

**Krowswork:** *Lux ex Machina* Work by Chris Fraser, Michelle Hoerler, Ethan Tobias. March 23-May 7. 480 23rd St., Oakland.

**Kahl Toronto + Art:** *Art Smiles, I Smile* Mixed media assemblage and sculpture by Lily Reelie. With Art Murmur receptions Fridays, Feb. 4 and Mar. 4, 6 p.m.-9 p.m. Through March 26. 412 22nd St., Oakland, 510-625-0123, kahlfrances.com.

**MacArthur B Arthur:** *Rk/00* Group show. Zamahar Abdallah, Chris Thomson, Justin Hardy, Suzy Poling, Joseph Raimondo, and Gareth Spor. Through March 27. 4030 Martin Luther King Jr. Way, Oakland. 510-213-1014, www.macarthurbarthur.com/.

**Martina Johnson Gallery:** *Genuinely Unbelievable* Featuring paintings, drawings and performance by Ali Dadgar and video by Ann Sedia. Through March 27. 1201 6th St., Berkeley. 510-558-0093.

**Mercury 20 Gallery:** *Mercury Medicine, Artist's Museum Inside Out* Work by P.R. Bevell. Through March 26. *Encounters with Light* Photography and mixed-media work by Mary Curtis Ratcliff. Through March 26. *The Water Is Fine* Work by graduate students at the California College of the Arts. Through March 26. 475 25th St., Oakland, 510-464-7794, Mercurytwenty.com.

**Pro Arts Gallery:** *2 x 8 Solos: Museum Blade* Paintings, curated by [illegible]. Through April 8. *2 x 2 Seven: Sara Boakes* Sculpture and video installation, curated by Paul Brothers. Through April 8. 150 Frank H. Ogawa Plaza, Oakland. 510-763-4361.

**Slate Contemporary Art and Design Gallery:** *Blue* Photography by [illegible]. Through April 15. 4770 Telegraph Ave., Oakland.

**Swarm Studios + Gallery:** *Aboveground* New work by Mayumi Hamanaka. Through April 8. 560 2nd St., Oakland. 510-839-2787, SwarmGallery.com.

**Zagkaas:** *Dreaming in Dreamtime* Paintings by Crystal Dawn Davis. Through March 20. 306 3rd Street, Berkeley.

## MUSEUMS

**Alameda Museum:** *The Eye of Metal* New sculpture by Fong Jin. Through March 30. Free. 2324 Alameda Ave., Alameda, 510-521-1233.

**Berkeley Art Museum:** *Design Futurelano: A Variation on Bill Powers of Ten* Multifaceted, multidisciplinary residence project by Amy Franceschini and Michael Swaine based on the 1977 documentary film *Powers of Ten*. Through April 29. Free-$10. *Echoes of Old Past: Qing Dynasty Chinese Painting* Chinese paintings from the 13th through 17th centuries. Through June 26. Free-$10. *Museum Now and Then* Abstract expressionist and minimalist works from the 20th and 21st centuries, by artists including Sadamu Gordon, Hans Hofmann, and Adolph Gottlieb. Through April 17. Free-$10. *Bob Nessa: Dreamtime II* retrospective of the mid-century sculptor's work. Through April 10. Free-$10. *Indeterminate Museum: Looking at Whistler* Reimagination of the modern master painter James McNeill Whistler's work. Through April 17. Free-$10. *Pixel Fashions. BAMscape* Commissioned team abstract sculpture and land and convert to abstract designs. Through Nov. 30. 2626 Bancroft Way, Berkeley. 510-642-0808, BAMPFA.Berkeley.edu.

**Oakland Museum of California:** *Splendors of Faith/Scars of Conquest: The Arts of the Missions of Northern New Spain, 1600-1821* Art and artifacts from missions in the Southwest, California, and Mexico. Through May 29, free with admission (free-$12). 1000 Oak St., Oakland, 510-238-2200, MuseumCA.org.

## PICKS

### Dreamtime

Originally, Dreamtime referred to Australian aborigines' notion of Creation: the descent of totemic beings from spiritual realms into plants, animals, and humans tasked with maintaining the cosmos through ritual song, dance, and art. East Bay photographers Aimee Friberg and Tabitha Soren explore a contemporary vision of art as dream with their fragmentary, softly focused views of poetic subject matter: cinematic images that hint at mysterious narratives à la Cindy Sherman and Ralph Gibson. Friberg's views of water and trees ("This Autumn [Breath]"), foggy landscapes, horse's haunches ("The New Young"), and decollated factory worker ("Shipyard February [From Lost Film Stills]") and Soren's nocturnes, either unpopulated ("You Come to Mind") or featuring enigmatic activities ("You Call That Dark?"), posit a universe that is radiantly beautiful even if no spiritual authority spills the esoteric beans for us. Through April 1 at Branch Gallery (480 23rd St., Oakland). 415-377-7537 or Branch.Bayvan.org. — *DeWitt Cheng*

DeWitt Cheng

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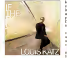
# THEATER & DANCE

## Louis Katz

*If These Balls Could Talk*



Louis Katz is tetchy. And a little abrasive. And way into dick jokes. Granted, you don't need to listen to his whole comedy album, *If These Balls Could Talk*, to figure that out. Just look at the title. Beneath that hard exterior is ... well, a hard interior. He's not the kind of person you'd want as a life coach. But his comedic persona is pretty solid.

You can tell by all the jeering and audible back-talk from audience members, mostly when Katz tells a joke called "High School Girlfriend." It starts with an anecdote about a religious girlfriend who never put out. "I've read the Bible," he said, performing the bit at **Sacramento Punch Line** comedy club, where *If These Balls* was recorded. "And I know that no matter what, I could always just put it in her butt."

Women giggled and men hooted in the audience. Katz continued, "W-W-J-D-A-N-A-L. That's the answer." He paused a beat. "That's true. Jesus would turn water into lube and fuck you in the ass." Another pause. "I think that's Corinthians, but I'm not sure."

"Aw damn!" someone shouted. "Oh my god," a woman moaned, seemingly on the verge of sobs.

As evidenced, Katz is a sassy pervert. He specializes in grotesque, clinical descriptions of sexuality and the human body. In his album opener, Katz describes large women as having "full body titties" — meaning tits and assets. His rather brutal portrait of a hippie roommate concentrates both on her smell ("like lamb shawarma," because she used Crystal deodorant) and the soles of her feet ("pitch-black"). He treats bad breath as an invitation. He uses "stanky pussy" as a metric for comparing other stanky smells. "Tuna fish on wheat? No thanks. I'll take rotten snatch on rye any day."

He vividly discusses cunnilingus, ejaculation, nose-picking, in-grown hairs, rectal functions, butt pimples, and excessive masturbation ("I had a masturbation problem — I'd jerk myself raw and get hard while trying to find the Neosporin"). For Katz, the human body is bizarrely sordid and virulently generative. Between moments of gross-out humor, he treats anatomical things as a muse. Fat women are "Rubenesque," though when he takes off his glasses they're more like an impressionist painting — meaning he can't distinguish between water lilies and areoli.

Perversion is a well-ingrained trope in the alt comedy scene. **Brent Weinbach** launched his career with intellectual poop jokes. **Moshe Kasher** fixates on homosexuality even though he's not gay. **Mary Van Note** built her persona in large part on a contrived obsession with San Francisco ex-Mayor Gavin Newsom.

Louis Katz does dick jokes. His appearance (small guy, big glasses), his cranky intonation, and his priapic themes might lead a listener to take the album title literally. Yet the surface belies the substantive content underneath. Katz is a shock humorist, for sure, but he's also the smartest guy in the room. And he alludes to that at least once on this album, when he makes the water lilies/areoli analogy. "Didn't get the Rubenesque joke? You're not gonna get that one," Katz snidely remarks. "Fine." (Comedy Central Records) — *Rachel Swan*

## PICKS

### Ruined

It's perfectly natural to feel some apprehension upon hearing the premise of ***Ruined***, **Lynn Nottage**'s Pulitzer Prize-winning play about rape and genital mutilation in war-ravaged Congo. But the theme is more a scaffold than a plot device, and it's fairly cryptic in the play. Women who suffer the worst atrocities of war are "ruined," and it's up to us to divine what the term means. The play's linchpin is a brassy, no-nonsense matriarch named Mama Nadi (Tonye Patano) — runs a brothel that also serves as a safe haven for women refugees. That premise requires a little suspension of conventional morals, but it's borne out in the drama of the play. Nadi's prostitutes have their own room where they read fashion magazines and paint each other's nails. They get fed. To a degree, they're protected. Ambiguously drawn, Nadi is both an exploiter and a protector, with a tender, sensual side that she can't always conceal — though it's apparent when she swoons over a box of Belgian chocolates or flirts with a salesman (the excellent Oberon K.A. Adjepong). *Ruined* benefits from shrewd direction by **Liesl Tommy** and a profusely detailed set by Clint Ramos. Through April 10 at **Berkeley Repertory Theatre** (2025 Addison St., Berkeley). $17-$73. BerkeleyRep.org. — *Rachel Swan*

### Nederlands Dans Theater

Founded in 1959 in an effort to break away from traditional choreography, **Nederlands Dans Theater** continues to revolutionize the art of modern dance. At **Zellerbach Hall** (Bancroft Way at Dana St., Berkeley) on Friday and Saturday, Mar. 18-19, the company reaches into its deep repertory to perform the acclaimed ***Whereabouts Unknown***, an exploration of human origins by its celebrated former artistic director Jiri Kylián. Equally inspired by ballet and Australian aboriginal dance, Kylián filters tribal influences through intense, contemporary movement and a soundtrack that includes Arvo Pärt, Anton Webern, and Steve Reich. Resident choreographers Paul Lightfoot and Sol León contribute ***Silent Screen***, a high-tech and highly technical homage to silent film with an ethereal score by Philip Glass. 8 p.m., $34-$72. 510-642-9988 or CalPerformances.org. — *Claudia Bauer*

### Dance Anywhere

It's called ***dance anywhere***, but "dance everywhere" is more like it. For the Friday, Mar. 18 everybody-dance-now event, people around the world get up and shake it at the same moment, uniting across time zones and continents to create a global guerilla dance-in. Over the past six years, schools, streets, subway platforms, galleries, and parks have doubled as dance floors from Slovenia to Namibia and across all fifty states. Locally, you can freeform it by getting your groove on wherever you are or, if you'd prefer to dance somewhere, by joining an ensemble at the **Berkeley Art Museum** (2626 Bancroft Way, Berkeley), the **Oakland Museum** (1000 Oak St., Oakland), or **Frank Ogawa Plaza** (14th St. near Broadway, Oakland). Noon, free. DanceAnywhere.org. — *C.B.*

## COMEDY

**Dr. Funny** [illegible] local comedy [illegible] by Christopher Riggins and featuring Ed [illegible]. Tuesdays, 7 p.m., free. The New Parish, 579 18th St., Oakland. TheNewParish.com.

**Brent Weinbach** With Comedy Is OK ([illegible] Kamenane, Andrew Michaan, and Paul Schlesinger). Fri., March 18, 10-11:15 p.m., $5. Grand Lake Theater, 3200 Grand Ave., Oakland. 510-452-3556, RenaissanceRialto.com/current/grandlake.htm.

**Comedy Brains: Carla Clay, Chris Duan and Bradley Lam** Sat., March 19, 8:30 p.m., $15-$50. The Marsh Berkeley @ Gaia Arts Center, 2120 Allston Way, Berkeley. 510-[illegible]. TheMarsh.org.

**Comedy Open Mic** Sign-ups at 5:30 p.m., each [illegible]. Mondays, 7 p.m., $5. [illegible] Comedy [illegible] House, 5094 [illegible] Rd., Pleasanton. 925-227-1800. [illegible].

**[illegible]** With Samson Koletkar, Bryce [illegible], Joe [illegible], [illegible], and Rachel McDowell. Thu., March 17, 8 p.m., $8-$10. [illegible], One Broadway, Oakland. 510-444-7171. [illegible].

**[illegible]** With Samson Koletkar, Joe Gleckler, Dan Wilson, Fred Anderson, and [illegible] McDowell. Fri., March 18, 8 & 10 p.m., $8-$10. [illegible], One Broadway, Oakland. 510-444-7171. [illegible].

**[illegible]** With Samson Koletkar, Joe [illegible], Dan Foldman, Dave [illegible], and Rachel McDowell. Sat., March 19, 8 & 10 p.m., $8-$10. [illegible], One Broadway, Oakland. 510-444-7171. [illegible].

**Magic & More!** With Big Al Catral, [illegible] bringing you an intimate [illegible] performance of magic and comedy [illegible] guests. Saturdays, 8 p.m., $20. [illegible] Theater, Stage 250, San Francisco. 415-[illegible].

**Margo's Funny Mondays** Weekly comedy and variety showcase featuring a rotating cast of comedians and hosted by local comedian Margo Gomes. Mondays, 8 p.m., $10. The Marsh Berkeley at Gaia Arts Center, 2120 Allston Way, Berkeley. 510-644-4948. TheMarsh.org.

**Saturday Night Comedy with [illegible], Martin [illegible], Joanne and Johnny Steele** Featuring a rotating lineup of other performers. Saturdays, 8 p.m., $15-25 sliding scale, $50 reserved seats. The Marsh Berkeley @ Gaia Arts Center, 2120 Allston Way, Berkeley. 510-644-4948. TheMarsh.org.

## LIVE VARIETY

**Apollo Grill Style** A monthly cash competition for talented professional and amateur performers. Third Saturday of every month, 5-9 p.m., $5-$10. Black Repertory Theater, 3201 Adeline St., Berkeley. 510-652-2120.

## THEATER & PERFORMING ARTS

***Five Dumb Thinking*** Solo show written by and starring Robert Dubac. Fridays, 8 p.m.; Saturdays, 5 p.m. Continues through April 2. $15-$50. The Marsh Berkeley at Gaia Arts Center, 2120 Allston Way, Berkeley. 510-644-4948. TheMarsh.org.

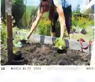
***Narnia: The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe*** Musicals Berkeley based on the C.S. Lewis novel. Written by Jules Tasca, Thomas Tierney, and Ted Drachman, directed by [illegible] and Amy Eaton, and featuring actors from the Berkeley Teen Playhouse. Saturdays, 2 & 8:30 p.m.; Thursdays, Fridays, 7:30 p.m.; First Sunday of every month, 11 a.m. & 3:30 p.m. Continues through April 3. $15-$30. Julia Morgan Center for the Arts, 2640 College Ave., Berkeley. 510-845-8542. JuliaMorgan.org.

***Not a Reserved Black Man*** One-man show written and performed by Brian Copeland. Thursdays. Continues through March 31. $20-35 Sliding Scale or $50 reserved seat. The Marsh Berkeley at Gaia Arts Center, 2120 Allston Way, Berkeley. 510-644-4948. TheMarsh.org.

***Romeo and Juliet*** Impact Theatre's production of the classic tragedy, directed by Melissa Hillman. Thursdays-Saturdays. Continues through March 27. $10. La Val's Subterranean Theatre, 1834 Euclid Ave., Berkeley. 510-464-4468.

***Ruined*** Drama about Congolese women. Written by Lynn Nottage, directed by Liesl Tommy, starring Oberon K. A. Adjepong, Carla Duren, Tonye Patano, and others. With various discounted, discounted nights, and other special events; see BerkeleyRep.org for full schedule. Thursdays, Saturdays, Sundays, 2 p.m.; performances Sundays, 7 p.m.; Tuesdays, Thursdays-Saturdays, 8 p.m. Continues through April 10. $14.50-$73. Berkeley Rep, 2025 Addison St., Berkeley. 510-647-2949. BerkeleyRep.org.

***Singing at the Edge of the World*** Cabaret-style "musical memoir" about Randy Rutherford, a guitarist who is [illegible] with hearing loss. Written and performed by Rutherford. Directed by David Ford. With captioning for the hearing-impaired on the March 12, 18, and 20 shows. Sundays, 5 p.m.; Thursdays, Fridays, 8 p.m. Continues through April 10. $15-$50. The Marsh Berkeley at Gaia Arts Center, 2120 Allston Way, Berkeley. 510-644-4948. TheMarsh.org.



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# Trekking the Med

Memoirist Joel Stratte-McClure walks around the Mediterranean Sea

Facing a midlife crisis and the collapse of your marriage after learning that your spouse has a lover half your age, what would you do? Get hammered? Not **Joel Stratte-McClure**. He'd already been there, done that, and quit drinking. Instead, the Stanford grad went back to basics — the very basics. He walked.

Having lived in France, he had long enjoyed that country's extensive hiking trail system. In 1998, his life crumbling around him, he set out to walk off his blues. "As a kid, I had always been enchanted with the Greek and Roman myths," Stratte-McClure mused. Thus was born his plan to circumambulate the Mediterranean Sea on foot, mostly solo — strolling its shores, scaling the sun-baked peaks overlooking it, and making pilgrimages to sites where his beloved ancient stories allegedly transpired. "I'm both only addictive and compulsive," Stratte-McClure laughed. "So this seemed like a nice little project."

Joel Stratte-McClure

More than 4,700 miles later, he has jumped off a Moroccan cliff, camped out at the foot of a column where Helen of Troy is said to have slept, and — among countless other adventures — raced down a Neapolitan beach fleeing robbers. An award-winning journalist who spent decades overseas writing for *People*, *Business Week*, and the *International Herald Tribune*, Stratte-McClure has turned his journey into a memoir, *The Idiot and the Odyssey*, which he will discuss at **Books Inc.** (1760 Fourth St., Berkeley) on Sunday, March 20.

It's not merely about walking from point A (as in Artemis) to point B (as in Battle of Lepanto). "A book that was just about walking would only interest one person, your mother, and even then, she'd probably be lying just to make you feel better," said Stratte-McClure, who deepened his step-by-step narratives with personal ruminations about the Sirens, alcoholism, divorce, Homer, Odysseus, Buddhism, and the people he met while doing what he calls "MedTrekking." Those people included hitchhikers, pilgrims, cruise-ship passengers, monks on males-only Mount Athos, and three Roma men who grabbed for his gold yin-yang pendant on that beach. "To them, I was a walking jewelry store."

High points include reaching the top of Mount Olympus. "Being there above the clouds where all the gods lived — that was a terrifically satisfying moment. I was just sitting there, blissful and happy," Stratte-McClure said.

Although his book is 165,000 words long, his journey isn't over. A second book will cover the rest. At his website, FollowTheIdiot.com, Stratte-McClure recently ran a contest to name his second book. Hundreds of suggestions poured in, from *The Orgasm and the Odyssey* to *Moron Does the Med* to *The Ibed and the Audacity*. He chose *The Idiot and the Odyssey II: Myth, Madness, and Magic on the Mediterranean*.

His website includes such headings as "About the Idiot," "Idiotic Reviews," and "Idiotic Fans." "I don't mind being called an idiot," Stratte-McClure said. "The fool is always the wisest man on the ship."

*— Anneli Rufus*

## LECTURES

**Amy Cook: "Mathematical Sponges and the Poisons of Nothing in Shakespeare's Henry V"** The Indiana University [illegible] discusses the concept of [illegible] and [illegible] the [illegible] of the Chorus' first speech ("O for a muse of fire") and [illegible] in Shakespeare's staging of the battle of Agincourt. Mon., March 14, 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m., free. Tolman Hall, UC Berkeley, Berkeley. 510-642-5345. Berkeley.edu.

**Betsy Davids: "Book Palm Leaf to Book"** The California College of Art professor [illegible] shares her [illegible] for [illegible] books from palm leaves. Sun., March 20, 4 p.m. Mrs. Dalloway's, 2904 College Ave., Berkeley. 510-704-8222. MrsDalloways.com.

**Ali Turner: "Figures of Speech: 'First Amendment Heroes and Villains'"** The UC Berkeley professor discusses his new book, which highlights important and colorful characters throughout the history of the First Amendment. Fri., March 18, 7:30 p.m., free. Mrs. Dalloway's, 2904 College Ave., Berkeley. 510-704-8222. MrsDalloways.com.

**Brenda Knight: "Happiness Habits"** The motivational author shares secrets from her new book. Thu., March 17, 7:30 p.m. Books Inc., 1344 Park St., Alameda. 510-522-7717. BooksInc.net.

**Irvine Tolman Lecture: Bob Hooker** Wed., March 23, 6:30-8 p.m., free. 240 Moffitt Library, UC Berkeley. UC Berkeley Campus, Berkeley.

**A Conversation with Gavin Olds on Law, Politics, Public Policy** President of the San Francisco Board of Supervisors and candidate for Mayor of San Francisco discusses his life and work with UC Berkeley's Undergraduate Political Science Association. Thu., March 17, 7-8 p.m., free. 145 Dwinelle Hall, UC Berkeley, Berkeley.

**"Conversations With Women"** Artists Rachel Poonsiry-Wan, Shen Wei, Debbie Yee, and Shari Arai DeBoer [illegible] their new book, *Cheers to Muses: Contemporary Works by Asian American Women*. Fri., March 18, 7:30 p.m., free. Books Inc., 1344 Park St., Alameda. 510-522-7717. BooksInc.net.

**Hayk Demoyan: "Directions of Armenian Studies: Education in Armenia"** The director of the Armenian Genocide Museum-Institute at the National Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Armenia discusses the current state of [illegible] within the country. Room 210, Fri., March 18, noon, free. Dwinelle Hall, UC Berkeley campus, Berkeley.

**Jonathan L. Gelbart: "Advancing the Green Economy"** The professor discusses the [illegible] between commerce and environmentalism, and outlines current opportunities, [illegible] and certifications that can help businesses become greener. Room 202, Thu., March 17, 5:30 p.m., free. UC Berkeley Extension, 1995 University Ave., Berkeley. 510-642-4111. extension.berkeley.edu.

**Leah Garchik** The longtime San Francisco Chronicle gossip columnist discusses her life and work with Bill Schechner. Thu., March 17, 7:30 p.m., $8-$10. Jewish Community Center of the East Bay, 1414 Walnut St., Berkeley. 510-848-0237. JCCEB.org.

**Lee Edelman: "Polyani Sonnets Syndrome in a Time That's Out of Joint"** The Tufts University professor delivers the 2011 [illegible] Lecture in Comparative Literature. Fri., March 18, 5-7 p.m., free. Dwinelle Hall, UC Berkeley campus, Berkeley.

**Panel Discussion: "The Brown Budget's Effect on Local Government"** With John Gioia (Supervisor, District 1, Contra Costa County) and Lori Trevino (City of El Cerrito Redevelopment Agency Manager) speaking as part of the El Cerrito Democratic Club's regular meeting. With a question-and-answer session and group discussion. Sun., March 22, 6:30 p.m., free. El Cerrito United Methodist Church, 6830 Stockton Ave., El Cerrito. 510-525-3580.

**Peggy Orenstein: "Cinderella Ate My Daughter"** The New York Times columnist discusses "the dark side of pink and pretty" and signs her new book on the subject. Tue., March 22, 7 p.m., free. Books Inc., 1344 Park St., Alameda. 510-522-7717. BooksInc.net.

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# PICKS

## Brenda Knight

Local author Brenda Knight's *Happiness Habits: 50 Ways to Live With Passion and Purpose* offers tips and tools for transformation. Its chapters include "Stand for Something," "Your Differences Are Your Greatest Assets," "Love With No Regrets," "The Tao of Dudes," and "What Would You Do If You Knew You Could Not Fail?" Meet Knight at **Books Inc.** (1344 Park St., Alameda) on Thursday, Mar. 17, 7:30 p.m., free. BooksInc.net — *Anneli Rufus*

## Regina M. Benjamin

How do we stem the obesity epidemic and rising asthma rates? At **UC Berkeley's Alumni House** on Thursday, Mar. 17, US Surgeon General **Regina M. Benjamin** delivers a lecture titled "**A Vision for a Healthy and Fit Nation.**" Benjamin is the founder of the Bayou La Batre Rural Health Clinic in Alabama and former associate dean for rural health at the University of South Alabama College of Medicine. 10:30 a.m., free. SPH.Berkeley.edu — *A.R.*

## Neil Strauss

He spent the night with Trent Reznor, went to church with Tom Cruise, discussed drugs with Madonna, and made Lady Gaga cry. At **Books Inc.** (1760 Fourth St., Berkeley) on Wednesday, Mar. 23, *Rolling Stone* editor **Neil Strauss** discusses ***Everyone Loves You When You're Dead***, his new collection of personal encounters with many celebrities, including Gwen Stefani, Rick James, and the members of Led Zeppelin. 7 p.m., free. BooksInc.net — *A.R.*

## Eleanor Brown

In **Eleanor Brown's** debut novel ***The Weird Sisters***, the three daughters of a Midwestern professor grew up loving books — but real life presents the trio with troubles that no library can solve. One sister becomes a drama queen, one is a caregiver/martyr, and the youngest tends to get away with everything. Meet Brown at **A Great Good Place for Books** (6120 La Salle Ave., Oakland) on Wednesday, Mar. 23, 7 p.m., free. GreatGoodPlace.Indiebound.com — *A.R.*

US Surgeon General Regina M. Benjamin

**Rich Muller "The [illegible] of US Climate Change: A Non-Partisan Analysis"** The Berkeley faculty member offers a spin-free analysis of recent climate-change developments. Sat., March 19, 11 a.m.-noon, free. 100 Genetics and Plant Biology Building, UC Berkeley campus, Berkeley. 510-642-9290.

**Sunday Evening Meditation and Awareness Series** Fifteen-week series of non-sectarian talks and meditations, facilitated by local Buddhist teacher [illegible] Sensei. 7-9 p.m. Sundays through June 12. $10 suggested donation. Berkeley Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, 1924 Cedar St., Berkeley. 510-841-4824. BUUF.org.

**Surgeon General Regina M. Benjamin: "A Vision for a Healthy and Fit Nation"** The US Surgeon General discusses her recommendations for improving public and [illegible] health in this country. Thu., March 17, 10:30 a.m.-2 p.m., free. Alumni House, UC Berkeley Campus, Berkeley.

More Listings Online
Get info about dozens more literary events at EastBayExpress.com or m.EastBayExpress.com

## LITERARY EVENTS

**Albany Library Adult Book Discussion Group** Fourth Tuesday of every month, 1:30-3:30 p.m., free. Albany Library, 1249 Marin Ave., Albany. 510-526-3720. ACLibrary.org.

**Bilingual Storytimes for Children** Saturdays, 11:30 a.m., free. Hayward Public Library, 835 C St., Hayward. 510-293-8685. Library.hayward-ca.gov.

**[illegible] and Dayna Baer** Presenting their book *The Company We Keep: A Husband-and-Wife True-Life Spy Story*. Hosted by [illegible]. Mon., March 21, 7:30 p.m., $12 in advance, $15 at the door. First Congregational Church of Berkeley, 2345 Channing Way, Berkeley. 510-848-3696.

**[illegible] Film Discussion Group: *The Cider House Rules*** Screening of the [illegible] film based on John Irving's novel of the same name, followed by a discussion of the book, the movie, and the adaptation process. Sun., March 20, 1:30 p.m., free. Berkeley Public Library, Central, 2090 Kittredge St., Berkeley. 510-981-6100. BerkeleyPublicLibrary.org.

**Bookworms Teen [illegible]** For Oakland teens, call Suzy at 510-597-5017. [illegible] Saturday of every month, 1-2 p.m., free. Oakland Public Library, Rockridge Branch, 5366 College Ave., Oakland. 510-597-5017. OaklandLibrary.org.

**California Writers Club Meeting** The month's guest [illegible] your skill and writing [illegible] all writers. For information call 510-238-3134. First Saturday of every month, 2-4 p.m., free. Oakland Public Library, 125 14th St., Oakland. 510-238-3022. OaklandLibrary.org.

**[illegible] Book Group** Third Monday of every month, 7 p.m., free. [illegible] & Books, 5604 Bay St., Emeryville. 510-547-8932.

**[illegible], Tiffany [illegible] and Fred [illegible]** Reading from their respective poetry collections. Sun., March 20, 5 p.m., [illegible], 5630 College Ave., Oakland. 510-653-8985. [illegible].com.

**Written Event** Recounting her novel, *The Weird Sisters*. Wed., March 23, 7 p.m., free. A Great Good Place for Books, 6120 LaSalle Ave., Oakland. 510-339-8210. GreatGoodPlace.Indiebound.com.

**Joel [illegible]** Reading from his memoir, *The Idiot and the Odyssey: Walking the Mediterranean* as part of the Live Your Dreams Book Club. Sun., March 20, 4 p.m., free. Books Inc. Berkeley, 1760 Fourth St., Berkeley.

**Lakeview Book Discussion Group** Third Monday of every month, 6:15-7:45 p.m. Oakland Public Library, Lakeview Branch, 550 El Embarcadero, Oakland. 510-238-7344. OaklandLibrary.org.

**Margaret [illegible]** Reading from her memoir *To Change the World: My Years at [illegible]*. Wed., March 23, 7 p.m., $15; [illegible]. La Peña Cultural Center, 3105 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-849-2568. LaPena.org.

**Michael [illegible]** Celebrating the release of his new book of poetry and illustrations, *A Dizzying Display of [illegible]*. Wed., March 23, 7 p.m., free. Diesel, A Bookstore, 5433 College Ave., Oakland. 510-653-9965. DieselBookstore.com.

**Neil Strauss** Discussing his book of celebrity interviews, *Everyone Loves You When You're Dead*. Wed., March 23, 7 p.m., free. Books Inc. Berkeley, 1760 Fourth St., Berkeley.

**[illegible] and Julien [illegible]** Reading from their respective poetry collections. Wed., March 23, 7:30 p.m., free. Moe's Books, 2476 Telegraph Ave., Berkeley. 510-849-2087. MoesBooks.com.

**Robert Fernandez, [illegible], and Joshua Edwards** The three poets, all affiliated with Canarium Books, read from their recent work. Thu., March 17, 7:30 p.m., free. Moe's Books, 2476 Telegraph Ave., Berkeley. 510-849-2087. MoesBooks.com.

## PUBLIC INTEREST

**[illegible] Metaphysical Toastmasters Club of Berkeley** Public speaking club with a "metaphysical" emphasis. First and Third Thursday of every month, 6:45-8:45 p.m., free. St. John's Presbyterian Church, 2727 College Ave., Berkeley. 510-845-6830.

**Free Book Exchange** Give and get free books of all genres. Saturdays, Sundays, 8 a.m.-6 p.m., free. Bay Area Free Book Exchange, 10520 San Pablo Ave., El Cerrito. 510-526-1940.

## SPOKEN WORD

**The Berkeley Poetry Slam** Hosted by Charles Ellik, [illegible]. Music by 3 Blind Mice. Wednesdays, 8 p.m., $7. Starry Plough, 3101 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-841-2082. StarryPloughPub.com.

**Storytelling Swap** Storytelling open mic hosted by Cathy Dana. Third Thursday of every month, 7-8 p.m., free. Frank Bette Center for the Arts, 1601 Paru St., Alameda. 510-523-6957. FrankBetteCenter.org.

**[illegible], a [illegible] Open Mic** Collegial women's writing hosted by [illegible] Layton. Info: 510-832-7548. Third Sunday of every month, 5-6 p.m., free. Frank Bette Center for the Arts, 1601 Paru St., Alameda. 510-523-6957. FrankBetteCenter.org.

**[illegible] at Word Beat** She draws, paints, reads books, and does gymnastics on horseback. [illegible] reads her poetry at the Mediterraneum Cafe with [illegible], who [illegible]. An open-mic follows, hosted by [illegible]. 7 p.m. Thursdays, 3 p.m., free. [illegible]. Mediterraneum Cafe, 2475 Telegraph Ave., Berkeley. 510-549-1128.

**[illegible] Word Art Visual and [illegible] Night** All presenters [illegible] for guest speakers [illegible] will be allowed 3-8 minutes to tell their stories or present their opinions. Signing begins at 8:15. First and third Friday of every month, 8:30 p.m. feedback@[illegible].com. Cafe [illegible], 13700 [illegible] Dr., San Leandro. 510-351-9964.

AQUARIUM AGE

# SPRING AWAKENING

For the week of March 16-22, 2011.

By Ralfee Finn

This week attitude is everything. Everything. So don't be careless, cavalier or reckless about what you think, say or do. We are at the beginning of two new planetary cycles — the astral equivalent of the planning and planting stage of a garden — and how you approach the details of daily life during this phase will determine what and how your garden grows. If your current situation is dreadful, find a way to frame it as an opportunity to grow and transform. If your situation is brilliant, make a conscious choice to be grateful for your good fortune. Most important, be aware of how your conscious choices co-create your future. And then do your best to plant the seeds of positive change, personal as well as collective.

Aries is the starting point for both new cycles. The Sun enters Aries on March 20, the vernal equinox and the start of spring in the northern hemisphere. For those of us who endured through the harsh and dark winter of 2011, the scent of spring and the promise of longer and warmer days is a much welcome relief. Seasonally, the coming weeks are the time to prepare the garden for planting.

The same phase can also apply to inner landscapes. Use this time to envision what it is you want to plant and bring to fruition during the rest of this year.

As the Sun enters Aries, it forms a conjunction with Uranus, which moved into Aries on March 11, where it will stay until May 2018. Uranus takes 84 years to orbit the Sun and journey through all twelve (not thirteen) Signs of the zodiac. The last time it transited Aries was 1927-1934/35, historically a time of tremendous economic and political upheaval. And over the course of the coming months, this column will examine the patterns of that last journey in an effort to better understand the current one.

But for this week as well as the next several weeks, it's best to stay in the present moment. The only problem is that the creative power of a Sun/Uranus conjunction makes it hard to get grounded and stay that way. Nerves jangle and hearts pound under the sway of this influence, and because it has the power to transform certain situations in the blink of an eye, you could find yourself catapulted into the future — or an entirely different dimension. Even mundane routines are likely to produce a nervous buzz. As you move through the intensity, try to remember that thoughts, words, and deeds are all seeds that put intentions into motion. And as always, keep in mind that your fellow travelers are under the same sway and that many of them may not be as skilled or experienced as you in handling the intensity.

If you know your Ascendant and/or your Moon Sign, read that too.

**ARIES** It's an unavoidable but valuable shift out of an old persona and into a more authentic identity. Don't worry if you can't envision the outcome; there's plenty of time to make adjustments as the process unfolds.

**TAURUS** Expect your dreams to reveal important information, and don't be dismayed if some of the data is delivered through surreal symbolism. Avoid taking every message literally; they are meant to promote a new mindset.

**GEMINI** It's a cliché to say "Expect the unexpected," but when it comes to connecting with friends and associates old or new, you're likely to be startled by certain behavior. Stay open when appropriate — some of the developments could yield positive results.

**CANCER** Continue to explore unusual, helpful career opportunities. Not every opening will play out, but the ones that are viable could turn into tangible opportunities to make solid gains.

**LEO** Be it alternate points of view or alternative states of consciousness, one thing is certain: You have an opportunity to widen, deepen and heighten your perspective on just about everything, including your personal psychology.

Any questions?

**VIRGO** The openings are there, but you have to be able to distinguish between pie-in-the-sky delusions and actual situations that will take root and grow. Remember the rule: If it sounds too good to be true, it probably is.

**LIBRA** Understanding the intricacies of a relationship is difficult for most of us. But for you, these particulars are both fascinating and mind-bending, especially this week, as a holographic perspective deepens your understanding.

**SCORPIO** You are being swept away by a whirlwind of work, but that isn't necessarily a bad thing. Make the most of this expansive and exciting energy by being willing to simply say "yes."

**SAGITTARIUS** Whatever you choose to do, be prepared to feel as if you are falling in love. This is not just infatuation with another, but rather a deep awakening of your capacity to open your heart to life.

**CAPRICORN** Little earthquakes are likely to challenge your rock-solid foundation, but don't let those tremors scare you. You're strong and resilient enough to handle whatever the situation demands.

**AQUARIUS** You won't be able to hold back your opinions, so rather than waste time pretending to be someone you're not, share your ideas. Not every one will be a gem, but one or two will pack plenty of power.

**PISCES** While transformation isn't as easy as blinking your eyes or twitching your nose, right now, magic is possible. Focus your attention on what you want to create and then "make it so." ●

**For More Info**

Ralfee Finn specializes in Transformational Astrology. For readings, call 1-888-637-9284, write P.O. Box 343, New York, NY 10025, visit AquariumAge.com, or e-mail Ralfee@AquariumAge.com. Copyright © 2011 by Ralfee Finn

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# OAKLAND
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03.27.11

A CORRIGAN SPORTS EVENT

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# WELCOME LETTERS

Welcome to Oakland, one of the most diverse cities in the world. We are excited to host the 2nd Annual Oakland Running Festival and hope you enjoy our beautiful city

As one of the nation s greenest cities—with a firm commitment to reducing Global Warming and improving individual good health—Oakland and its residents will cheer you on as you walk or run through our neighborhoods, each with its unique flavor We hope you ll take notice of our many parks, beautiful vistas, great weather historical architecture and our residents tremendous pride in our City

For those of you who have come from afar we invite you to try our nationally and internationally acclaimed restaurant scene. Please spend some time visiting our well known cultural institutions—the Chabot Space & Science Center the Oakland Museum of California the Oakland Zoo and Children s Fairyland. Stop by beautiful Lake Merritt the nation s first wildlife refuge—or visit our bustling Chinatown, the Jack London Waterfront and the Uptown arts and entertainment district.

We thank Corrigan Sports Enterprises for their support of our city and their commitment to the local charities that will benefit from the revenue generated from the Oakland Running Festival And thanks to the hundreds of volunteers who are helping to make this event possible

Oakland—its beauty, its vibe, its enthusiasm—is right beside you from the starting line to the finish line! Come back again!

Mayor Jean Quan,
City of Oakland

---

## Dear Friends & Runners:

Welcome to the second Oakland Running Festival This event promises to be exciting and memorable not only for the runners but for the entire city

The Oakland Running Festival is a major undertaking that depends on the cooperation of city agencies and the community for its success. Our police, fire, public works, parks and recreation, transit and traffic departments worked tirelessly throughout the year with Corrigan Sports, our event coordinator to make this one of the best marathons in the country

The Oakland Running Festival is unique in that it offers a Marathon, Half Marathon, 4-Person Team Relay, 5K and Kid s Fun Run, accommodating the running abilities of a range of participants. The festival highlights the benefits of physical exercise and its positive impacts on personal and community health

The atmosphere will no doubt be a celebratory one for this second annual event We are grateful to Lee Corrigan and his team and look forward to many more years of working with them to ensure the success of this event.

We wanted to thank all the sponsors, including Geico Kaiser Permanente, Bay Area News Group, Skechers, Greenlight Apparel, local professional sports franchises and the official medical provider Alameda County Medical Center

The ultimate winners of this event are the local charities who will benefit from revenues generated by the Oakland Running Festival We are proud of the commitment of all who helped to make this day special for our great city especially the festival s hundreds of volunteers

To all the runners enjoy our city We enjoy having you and we look forward to your return next year

Sincerely
Oakland City Council

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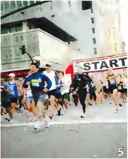

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# SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

### SPECIAL THANKS TO THE RUNNING FESTIVAL PLANNING COMMITTEE

Gene Brtalik – Race Director
Ted Vodicka – Assistant Race Director
Jonathan Zeegman
Thomas Knight – Course Certification
Joe Davis – Course Certification
Christine Chapon – Volunteer Coordinator
Dr. Jessica Gowan – Massage Coordinator
Tara Runyon – Volunteer Coordinator

### THE CSE STAFF INCLUDES

Lee Corrigan
Gene Brtalik
Don Abrahams
Christine Brus
Matt Connell
David Goff
Ryan Henwood
Brae Higgins
Tom Mitch
Janet Novak
Mark Ragonese
Chris Tomlinson
Tom Truffer
Susan Warplaski

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Libby Schaaf, Councilmember, District 4
Ignacio De La Fuente, Councilmember, District 5
Desley Brooks, Vice Mayor, District 6
Larry Reid, City Council President, District 7
Rebecca Kaplan, Councilmember At-Large

OAKLAND POLICE DEPARTMENT
Sgt. Pete [illegible]
Officer Mike [illegible]
Officer Jorge Cabral

OAKLAND FIRE DEPARTMENT
Justin Wallace

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David Ferguson
Dodds Bolden-Wong
Becky Dowdakin
Christina Ralls

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Susan Roberts
Zac Manikvoric
Cathy Ballanis

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[illegible] Tarver

Sonny Addis – Greenlight Apparel
David Bailey – AMR
Josh Band – [illegible] Fitness Group
Andrea Bravo – Alameda County Medical Center
Bill Brewer – [illegible]
John Brown – CBM
Alice Cavallo – Oakland Marriott City Center
Jody Colley – East Bay Express
Pacific Photography
Tracy Gilbert – Bay Area Beverage Company
Monika Gill – Greenlight Apparel
Jennifer Glover – Millennium
Ben Greenbergs – East Bay Express
Dr. Jim Green – [illegible] Chiropractic
John Hadrut – Kaiser Permanente
David Hardy – Oakland Marriott City Center
Thea Jackson – Oakland Convention and Visitors Bureau
Brooke Kennedy – Clif
Pam Kraus – Whole Foods
Wright Lassiter – Alameda County Medical Center
Lumen – Wright GIS and Mapping
Warren Lyons – Alameda County Medical Center
Kim Maloy – Comcast
Bobbie Mendez – Kaiser Permanente
Jennifer Ness – CBM
Dr. Valeene [illegible] – Alameda County Medical Center
[illegible] – Bay Area News Group
[illegible]
Melissa Ritchey – Green Face Team Coordinator
Bonnie Rosas – Arrowhead Water
Lorraine Romero – Oakland Marriott City Center
Lucky Sandhu – Waterfront Hotel
Dr. Robert Sayer – Alameda County Medical Center
Jennifer Scarlet – Kaiser Permanente
Mireya Stark – Sports Basement
John Stockmeier – Bay Area News Group
Mike Sugrue – AMR
David Tucker – Waste Management
Rhonda Walter – State Highway Administration
Jennifer Weikel – [illegible] Fitness Group
Chris White – Bay Area News Group
Patrice Zelma – Bay Area News Group

## RACE DAY INFORMATION

NO REGISTRATION OR PACKET PICK-UP ON RACE DAY, MARCH 27

### SATURDAY MARCH 26

| | |
|---|---|
| 9AM-6PM | Packet Pick-Up, Sports Expo, and Late Registration |
| 6-8PM | Kick-Off Party with Live Music and More at Jack London Square!! |
| 6:30 PM | Oakland Tribune 5K at Jack London Square |
| 8PM | Oakland Tribune 5K Awards Ceremony |

### SUNDAY MARCH 27

| | |
|---|---|
| 7:15AM | Opening Remarks and National Anthem |
| 7:30AM | Marathon and Team Relay Races Start |
| 8:30AM | Kids Fun Run Start |
| 9AM | Half Marathon Start |
| 7AM-3PM | Celebration Village Open |
| 10:30AM-2PM | Live Music on the Stage |
| 12:00PM | Award Ceremonies |
| 3:00PM | Finish Line Closes |

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# RACE DESCRIPTION

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## OAKLAND MARATHON

**START LINE AT 14TH AND BROADWAY**

**RACE TIME: 7:30 AM**

After a successful first year, a marathon will again take place through the streets of Oakland.

The 2011 course shows the great diversity of Oakland as Runners will begin on Broadway, move along Piedmont and College Avenues, pass by beautiful Lake Temescal and then tackle the hills of Montclair. After a breathtaking view of the Cities by the Bay, runners will journey through the vibrant neighborhoods of Dimond, Fruitvale, Chinatown and historic Jack London Square. Then it's a final lap around sparkling Lake Merritt and a sprint to the finish at City Hall. The course is challenging but fair and a great test for any marathoner.

The merge point between the marathon and half marathon will be at 5th St. and 8th Ave. The half marathon will start at 14th and Broadway splitting after 2/10 mile and will rejoin the marathon route around mile 16.5. The additional 3.5 miles of separation between the courses will alleviate the "bunched up" merge point and make for a smooth transition. Participants in the marathon will receive a Greenlight Apparel performance quarter zip pullover as part of their registration fee.

## HALF-MARATHON

**START LINE AT 14TH AND BROADWAY**

**RACE TIME: 9:00 AM**

The half marathon is a great training race for any spring or summer marathon.

The merge point between the marathon and half marathon will be at 5th St. and 8th Ave. The half marathon will start at 14th and Broadway splitting after 2/10 mile and will rejoin the marathon route around mile 16.5. The additional 3.5 miles of separation between the courses will alleviate the "bunched up" merge point and make for a smooth transition.

Participants in the half marathon will receive a Greenlight Apparel long sleeve performance shirt as part of their registration fee.

## KID'S FUN RUN

**PARTICIPANTS WILL GATHER IN FRANK OGAWA PLAZA PRIOR TO RACE**

**RACE TIME: 8:30 AM**

The Kids Fun Run is open to all children 12 and younger. The run will consist of two age divisions.

**7 & Under—RED Division** (8:30 AM start)

**8-12—BLUE Division** (8:40 AM start)

The age groups will run various lengths with all participants crossing the same finish line as the marathoners. All participants will receive a medal, t-shirt and refreshments.

**AGE DIVISION FUN RUN DISTANCE**

**7 & UNDER (RED) 200 YARDS**

**8-12 (BLUE) 2 MILE**

PARENTS: Upon arrival at Frank Ogawa Plaza, please bring your child(ren) to the Celebration Village and place them with their respective COLOR division. Each color division will be led to the appropriate start line.

## OAKLAND TRIBUNE 5K (MARCH 26)

**START LINE AT JACK LONDON SQUARE OUTSIDE MISS PEARL'S JAM HOUSE**

**RACE TIME: 6:30 PM**

Containing just as much fanfare as the other races, the fast and competitive 5K will start and finish at the same point around Jack London Square. The 5K is a great way to be a part of the Oakland Running Festival without all the training. The 5K begins at 6:30 PM. All runners receive a Greenlight Apparel performance shirt and refreshments.

# RACE DESCRIPTION

## LEGG MASON FOUR-PERSON TEAM RELAY

**START LINE AT 14TH STREET AND BROADWAY**

**RACE START: 7:30 AM**

The Four Person Team Relay consists of four person teams with each runner assigned a portion of the marathon course to run. Each team member will run a different leg of the route varying in length from 6 to 7.3 miles. Participants in the team relay will receive a Greenlight Apparel performance shirt with their registration.

**Thanks to the support of corporate partners, prizes will be awarded to the top finishers in all categories of the relay including restaurant gift certificates and running shoes & apparel.**

## RELAY EXCHANGE POINTS:

There are three relay exchange points on the course that can be reached via bus, BART or your own transportation (Be aware there will be limited parking and access at each site and through the course). All buses leave Frank Ogawa Plaza on Clay Street next to City Hall.

Buses or BART will transport relay runners back to Frank Ogawa Plaza upon completion of their relay run. BUSES ARE FOR RUNNERS ONLY. Listed below are the relay legs as well as the bus schedule for the exchange points.

## TEAM RELAY:

**LEG 1 (6.0 MILES)**

START 14th/Broadway Streets
FINISH Lake Temescal Park

**LEG 2 (5.5 MILES)**

START Lake Temescal Park
FINISH Champion St. (Under 580 Overpass)
- Bus Departs PROMPTLY at 7:00 AM

**LEG 3 (2.5 MILES)**

START Champion St. (Under 580 Overpass)
FINISH 7th St. and Mandela Pkwy
- Bus Departs PROMPTLY at 7:45 AM

**LEG 4 (7.3 MILES)**

START 7th St. and Mandela Pkwy
FINISH Frank Ogawa Plaza
- RUNNERS will take BART (pass to be provided)

# At Alameda County Medical Center We Take Care of Everyone—*Including Ourselves*

As the Public Hospital and Health System for Alameda County we do whatever it takes to bring you the highest quality care and provide access to health services for all regardless of ability to pay Our executive leadership fosters a dynamic collaborative environment, and our world-class physicians are known for providing the latest treatments to our patients, all while training the next generation of doctors through our nationally recognized teaching institution. Our nurses, employees and volunteers share our commitment to excellence. Together, Alameda County Medical Center brings you compassionate, comprehensive medical care and sometimes, in fact many times, we take care of ourselves too!

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- Family Planning
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- Geriatrics
- Hematology/Oncology
- HIV Testing & Treatment
- Neurology
- Obstetrics & Gynecology
- Ophthalmology
- Orthopedics
- Pediatrics
- Plastic Surgery
- Podiatry
- Rheumatology
- Urology

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*Newark Wellness Center – 6066 Civic Terrace Ave Newark (510) 505 1690*
*Winton Wellness Center – 24100 Amador St #250, Hayward (510) 266 1700*
*Highland Hospital Clinics – 1411 E 31st St Oakland (510) 437 4800*

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# OAKLAND TRIBUNE 5K

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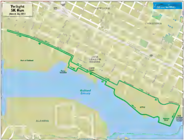
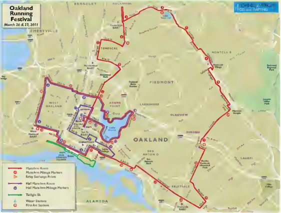

Twilight
5K Run
March 26, 2011
GIS and MAPPING
CHINATOWN
JACK LONDON SQUARE
Port of Oakland
Ferry Terminal
Oakland Estuary
ALAMEDA

# COURSE MAP


Oakland Running Festival
March 26 & 27, 2011
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TEMESCAL
Lake Temescal
MONTCLAIR
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WEST OAKLAND
ADAMS POINT
LAKESHORE
GLENVIEW
Lake Merritt
DIMOND
OAKLAND
SAN ANTONIO
LAUREL
FRUITVALE
ALAMEDA
Finish
Marathon Route
Marathon Mileage Markers
Relay Exchange Points
Half Marathon Route
Half Marathon Mileage Markers
Twilight 5k
Water Stations
First Aid Stations

City Hall

Fox Theatre

Lake Merritt

Mandela Parkway

# STREET BY STREET

## 2011 OAKLAND MARATHON COURSE STREET BY STREET

**Start - Outside Frank Ogawa Plaza at Broadway and 14th**

- Slight right to stay on Broadway
- Slight right at Piedmont Ave
- Turn left at 41st St
- Turn right at Telegraph Ave
- Turn right at 51st St
- Turn left at Broadway
- Sharp left at College Ave
- Turn around at Claremont Ave
- Turn left at Keith Ave
- Turn left at Broadway
- Slight right to stay on Broadway
- Run Through Lake Temescal Park
- Turn left out of Park onto Broadway Terrace
- Slight left to stay on Broadway Terrace
- Continue on Duncan Way
- Continue on Fernwood Dr
- Turn right at Mountain Blvd
- Slight right to stay on Mountain Blvd
- Turn right on Mountain Blvd
- Turn left on to LaSalle
- Turn left to Trafalgar
- Trafalgar turns into Monterey
- Turn right onto Lincoln
- Continue to follow Lincoln Ave
- Slight left at Champion Ave
- Turn left at Nicol
- Turn right at Coolidge
- Turn left at Foothill
- Turn right at 42nd St
- Turn right at CA 185/International Blvd
- Continue to follow International Blvd
- Turn left at 14th Ave
- Turn right at E 8th St.
- Continue on 7th St
- Turn right at Fallon
- Turn left at 8th St
- Turn left at Jackson St
- Turn right at 2nd St
- Turn right at Brush St
- Turn left at 4th St
- Turn right at Market
- Turn left at 7th St
- Turn right at Mandela Pkwy
- Turn right at 32nd Street
- Turn right at Hannah Ave.
- Turn left at 28th St
- Cross San Pablo Ave
- Turn left at 28th St
- Turn right at West St
- Turn left at 27th St
- Turn right at Harrison Street
- Turn left at Grand Ave
- Turn slight right and take Path around Lake
- Follow path through parking lot around aviary
- Get back on path and follow to Grand
- Turn right on Grand Ave
- Turn right at MacArthur
- Turn right at Lakeshore Ave
- Slight right to stay on Lakeshore Ave
- Slight right at 14th St
- Slight right at Lakeside Dr
- Slight left at 19th St
- Turn left at Telegraph Ave
- Slight right to stay on Telegraph

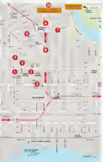
**Finish on 14th Street**

## HALF-MARATHON COURSE STREET BY STREET

**Start at Frank Ogawa Plaza (14th and Broadway)**

- Turn left at W Grand Ave
- Turn left at Martin Luther King Jr Way
- Slight left at San Pablo Ave
- Slight right at Martin Luther King Jr Way
- Turn left at 9th St
- Turn left at Harrison St
- Turn right at 12th St
- Turn right at Madison St
- Turn left at 10th St
- Turn right at 5th Ave
- Turn right at E 8th St (Merge with full course)
- Continue on 7th St
- Turn right at Fallon
- Turn left at 8th St
- Turn left at Jackson St
- Turn right at 2nd St
- Turn right at Brush
- Turn left at 4th St
- Turn right at Market St
- Turn left at 7th St
- Turn right at Mandela Pkwy
- Slight left to stay on Mandela Pkwy
- Turn right at 32nd St
- Turn right at Hannah
- Turn left onto 28th
- Turn right at San Pablo Ave
- Turn left at 28th St
- Turn right at West St
- Turn left at 27th St
- Turn right at Harrison Street
- Turn left at Grand Ave.
- Turn slight right and take Path around Lake
- Follow path through parking lot around aviary
- Get back on path and follow to Grand
- Turn right on Grand Ave
- Turn right at MacArthur
- Turn right at Lakeshore Ave
- Slight right to stay on Lakeshore Ave
- Slight right at 14th St
- Slight right at Lakeside Dr
- Slight left at 19th St
- Turn left at Telegraph Ave
- Slight right to stay on Telegraph

**Finish on 14th Street**



## PARKING

**1) City Center West Garage** (entrance on Jefferson Street or MLK Jr. Way between 12th and 14th). FREE Parking for 1,100 cars. Opens at 5 a.m.

**2) City Center Garage** (entrance on 11th Street between Clay Street and Broadway also entrance on 14th Street). $5 Parking all day

**3) Oakland Marriott City Center Garage** (entrance on 11th Street between Clay and Broadway)

**Douglas Parking** will open the following lots free of charge on race day.

**4) 15th & Jefferson**
**5) 16th & Martin Luther King**
**6) Broadway & 21st**
**7) 20th & Webster**
**8) 17th & Broadway**
**9) 20th Between Telegraph & San Pablo**
**10) 30 Grand Avenue**

**There is also street parking.**

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# WHERE TO STAY

The newly renovated **OAKLAND MARRIOTT CITY CENTER** located in the historic district of downtown Oakland, is the perfect meeting place for events of 10 to 1000. The $17 million hotel renovation includes physical upgrades to all 476 guest rooms, eight suites, 21 corridors, grand lobby, pre-function, ballroom and meeting space, exterior entry and concierge lounge. Inspired by the notable jazz and blues history of Oakland-hints of musical influence are infused into every detail – from the moody and contemporary artwork to the rich red, gold, and beige hues that punctuate the stylish new decor. Together with the Oakland Convention Center, the Oakland Marriott City Center offers event and meeting professionals 89,000 combined square feet of flexible event, convention, exhibit and social gathering space and a combined total of 39 breakout meeting rooms. The Grand and Junior ballrooms at the Oakland Marriott City Center together with their respective pre-function space have been redesigned with the complementary and rich tones found throughout the hotel. Rediscover the Oakland Marriott City Center.
The Oakland Marriott City Center is just steps from the start of the Oakland Running Festival.

**HOMEWOOD SUITES BY HILTON – OAKLAND WATERFRONT** A waterfront hotel near historic Jack London Square featuring complimentary "Suite Start" breakfast daily, complimentary HS Internet, exercise facility, outdoor pool and BBQ grills. Enjoy all the comforts of home in a Studio Suite with a fully equipped kitchen, full size refrigerator, coffeemaker, microwave & more. 60% of the rooms have waterfront views.
Homewood Suites by Hilton is less than three miles from the start of the Oakland Running Festival.

The seamless combination of the **WATERFRONT HOTEL'S** nautical style and the traditional setting of Jack London Square come together on Oakland's waterfront to create a soothing yet stimulating location for your next trip.

After a multi million dollar renovation in 2008, the Waterfront Hotel blends the unique atmosphere of the Oakland waterfront with modern and luxurious designs. Now featuring upgraded guestrooms, lobby, meeting spaces, exterior painting, and our new restaurant, Miss Pearl's Jam House. The Waterfront Hotel celebrates the adventurous spirit of the Oakland waterfront, with all of the guestrooms, public spaces, and meeting rooms embodying the maritime atmosphere and soul of the waterfront through the nautical inspired décor.

The Waterfront Hotel is the perfect place for a fun and relaxing Oakland vacation. Are you ready to unwind? Then put your feet up and watch the boats in the Oakland Harbor sail by. Are you looking for adventure? Then step outside and explore Jack London Square. It's all right at our door.

The Waterfront Hotel is just blocks away from the start of the Oakland Running Festival.

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# HEALTH & FITNESS EXPO

OAKLAND
RUNNING FESTIVAL
3.26.11

## OAKLAND MARRIOTT CITY CENTER
## SAT. MARCH 26 - 9 AM TO 6 PM

The expo is held in the Oakland Marriott City Center in the Exhibit Hall West. The vendors and patrons will find a spacious and enjoyable expo with fun for all

Find great prices on shoes, apparel, nutritional supplements and active gear in addition to exhibits and other information on today's latest technologies, health care products and programs. The Expo is open to the public - you don't have to be a participant to browse and shop

The Expo also serves as headquarters for PACKET and CHIP PICK UP as well as race registration. There is NO RACE DAY REGISTRATION or PACKET PICK UP

Individual runners must pick up their own packets

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OAKLAND RUNNING FESTIVAL
MARATHON ✦ HALF-MARATHON ✦ 4 PERSON RELAY ✦ 5K ✦ KIDS' FUN RUN

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# CELEBRATION VILLAGE

## JACK LONDON SQUARE/FRANK OGAWA PLAZA

### SAT. MARCH 26 - 6 PM TO 9 PM AND SUN. MARCH 27 - 9 AM TO 3 PM

Sat March 26 6 PM to 9 PM and Sun March 27 9 AM to 3 PM The Celebration Village located at the Frank Ogawa Plaza opens at 9 AM on Sunday and is the place for family and friends to gather and enjoy the festivities that surround the Oakland Running Festival While the runners are finishing their race on Telegraph fans are invited to take part in the fun as well Activities through out the day include games and events in the Kid s Fun Zone an interactive area vendors sponsor giveaways along with food and drinks Live music from great local bands will create a festive atmosphere and a great finish to the race

The Connection Zone is where family and friends can greet participants upon completion of the races

Join the festivities in the Celebration Village and show your support of this great Oakland event. The Celebration Village is open from 6 PM to 9 PM on Saturday at Jack London Square and from 9 AM to 3 PM on Sunday It is FREE and OPEN to the public.

**Saturday, March 26 (Jack London Square)**
**6 00 PM - 9 00 PM**

- The Twilight 5K
- Live Music on the Main Stage
- Official Event Merchandise
- Food and drinks available
- 5K Awards Ceremony

**Sunday, March 27 (Frank Ogawa Plaza)**
**9 00 AM - 3 00 PM**

- Kids" Fun Zone with interactive games
- Live Music on the Main Stage
- Official Event Merchandise
- Finish Line Home Stretch activities
- Food and drinks available
- Race Awards Ceremonies

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# COURSE LAYOUT

BY LEN GOLDMAN, JIM ECKFORD AND SIMONE ADAIR

## The Beginning - Miles 1 to 5

Runners begin their marathon journey in the heart of Oakland, in front of the scenic City Hall building built in 1914. This structure, standing 320 ft. tall, was the first high rise government building in the U.S. and was also the tallest building West of the Mississippi at the time it was built. Its design is in the classic Beaux Art style, resembling a "rectangular wedding cake."

At the start, runners travel up Oakland's main boulevard, Broadway, once the retail heart of the East Bay, and will be able to see firsthand the urban renaissance taking place in the "Uptown" section (Broadway & 27th) with restaurants, night clubs, and mid rise apartments and condos dotting the landscape. Note the "Paramount Theater" at 20th & Broadway, site of many performances and built in the classic "art deco" style. The first several miles of the course are relatively flat, with minor elevation changes. After two miles, runners make their first turn, a left onto 40th St., a major connector artery and at 40th & Broadway, runners will have a glimpse of the new Kaiser Permanente Hospital complex. At mile 2½ runners make a turn onto one of the legendary streets in Oakland and Berkeley, Telegraph Ave. This part of Oakland is called the "Temescal" area. In recent years it has also seen a revival and is home to many of the up and coming restaurants. Runners will now notice the scenery is a mix of retail establishments, apartment buildings and single family homes, many of which are in the "Craftsman" style, which was popular in the 1930's. As they exit the Temescal area and run on 51st Street, runners will encounter a series of small rolling hills; this will be just a taste of what will come later. Right before mile 4, runners once again turn onto Broadway and after a few blocks make a left onto one of Oakland's premier retail and restaurant neighborhoods, "Rockridge." For the next mile, runners will pass by a variety of retail establishments, including two well known local running stores, *See Jane Run* and *Transports*.

As runners exit the Rockridge area by turning onto Keith Ave., they will find themselves running parallel to the BART right of way. This is the Bay Area's rapid transit system, opened in the late 1960's and which has continued to expand its network over the decades. It has served as the model for many other rapid transit systems in the U.S. including Washington D.C. and Atlanta. At this point in the race, runners will start to notice a gain in elevation that continues to increase as once again Broadway is crossed and you are now at the far end of this major roadway. It now becomes a two lane road, no longer busy enough for four lanes of traffic. To one side you will notice a busy freeway, Highway 24, and to the other side off in the distance, large homes sitting on lots with impressive views. This area is very close to the center of the devastating Oakland Hills fire of 1991 that destroyed over 3,000 homes. Most of the homes have been replaced, with even bigger and fancier buildings, making this one of Oakland's nicest residential areas. As you continue to run uphill, you pass the entrance to Temescal *Regional* Park, one of the many parks in the East Bay Regional Park District. Notice the lake and the beach area, making this park very popular in the Summer months. At the end of the park, you make a right turn and are now running on a bike path that will take you from one end of the park to the other, about ½ mile in length.

## The Hill – Miles 6 to 11

As you come out of Temescal Park and pass under the Highway 13 freeway, you will be on a level section as you pass the 7 mile marker on Duncan Way. You will be running in a southeasterly direction now until you reach the course's highest point. This is a pleasant neighborhood of single houses with trees in their yards. The gradient starts to trend uphill again, but more than half of the climbing is behind you now.

You will take a break to the right on Fernwood. The trees are getting larger here, with some redwoods and other tall trees shading the road. Just for a change, there's a 50-yard downhill before you turn out onto the ominously named Mountain Boulevard. This road offers some gentle upward gradients, but will seem relentless after about a mile. The pattern of climbing should now be well established. You should be breathing easily and able to talk a little with your fellow racers. Leave the more intense running for the later stages of the race. There's a crest just after the 8-mile marker near Montclair Elementary School that means no more climbing for a half mile. You will pass through Montclair village on a down grade (*Starbucks, anyone?*) while taking a soft right. Then there's a hard right for one block before turning left onto Lasalle. This crosses a bridge over the freeway (This bridge is flat – no climbing needed here) and you immediately turn left onto Trafalgar. This street parallels Highway 13 on your left and residences on your right. This stretch of the course, about 1/2 mile long, is rolling terrain and watch out for the speed bumps, 3 of them on this section of the course. Right before the crossing for Park Blvd., a major thoroughfare, there is a rather steep downhill section, about 200 meters in length. Upon crossing Park Blvd., the next mile on Monterey Blvd. will be mainly a steady climb to mile 10. Look for the Montclair Golf Course on your right and as you pass its driveway, the uphill climb begins. Take in your surroundings during the climb, with nice residences lining the street on your right. Once the spires of the Mormon Temple come into view, the climb is over and when you reach Lincoln Ave. make a right turn and take in the vista from this view point on the course.

This is where the big descent begins. Weather permitting, there is an expansive view ahead across Oakland to the Bay. The Mormon Temple is on the left with its fountains and palm trees, and next door is the Greek Orthodox cathedral with its green dome. However you might have little time for sightseeing whilst you are getting down the hill in a controlled fashion. The objective is to reach the bottom of the steep part without being winded and without beating up your legs. Keep your stride short to minimize the impact of each footfall, stay upright and try to relax your upper body. This part is paved in concrete and lasts for a little over half a mile. Then the gradient eases, the pavement becomes asphalt, and you enter a residential neighborhood. Different runners have very different downhill styles, but many find they can run faster once the gradient eases and they are not having to fight it. Remember that you need to keep yourself fresh and whole for the second half. It's worth sacrificing a few seconds here to keep your legs in good shape.

Near the bottom of the downhill section, at mile 11, you enter the Dimond District, a neighborhood centered on the intersection of MacArthur Boulevard and Fruitvale Avenue and a cluster of various retail establishments. It is a multicultural neighborhood where the hills meet the flatlands and is a unique blending of cultures and social classes.

## Oakland's Melting Pot - Miles 12 to 16

The good news is that the hills are now behind you and it is relatively flat from here on to the finish, although fatigue may amplify any smaller gradients you encounter. At this point as you descend Fruitvale Avenue into the flatlands, you will discover the district once known as Oakland's second downtown. One hundred years ago, Fruitvale was a tourist destination and lived up to its name with orchards, gardens and even an ostrich farm. Following the 1906 earthquake, the onslaught of refugees from San Francisco caused a population boom. Over the years, this area has undergone many changes, reflecting the ebb and flow of different ethnic groups who have made it their home. Today, Fruitvale is a less well heeled but quite a picturesque neighborhood with a mixture of houses, apartment buildings, churches and retail businesses.

This vibrant district is a cosmopolitan melting pot reflecting the diversity of a great American city. In fact, according to the 2000 Census, Oakland is the second most ethnically diverse city in the United States, with many languages spoken.
A mix of historic Victorians and converted warehouses, this area is home to a vibrant artist scene. Nearby lies Jingletown and the famous Mosaic Art Institute. It is

# COURSE LAYOUT

named after the Portuguese mill workers who would jingle their work's wages after being paid. This neighborhood now hosts two annual art walks highlighting the many artists who call Fruitvale home.

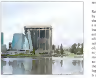
As you make a right onto International Boulevard at mile 13.5, you will get a taste of the rich Hispanic culture of this neighborhood, which hosts an annual Cinco de Mayo parade and a Dia De Los Muertos festival. This land was once home to the Huchiun and Jalquin tribes of Ohlone Indians. At mile 14, you run close by the Fruitvale BART station around which a transit village has been developed recently. The "Fruitvale Village" has become a model of transit oriented development, showcasing a mixture of retail and housing integrated with public transit.

Miles 14-16 continue without much undulation and off to your left shoulder you will catch glimpses of the Oakland Estuary and San Francisco Bay. You are now running through an area that is home to many different ethnicities, including the Hmong community. These mountain people from the hills of Southeast Asia fled refugee camps following the Vietnam War and made their home in Oakland adding to the rich tapestry of our city. You will also see the major Oakland train tracks that serve the Port of Oakland. These tracks will lead you past Laney College, the flagship campus of the Peralta Community College. This campus is set on 60 sprawling urban acres and serves over 10,000 students a year.

## Oakland's Maritime Center and West Oakland – Miles 17 to 21

At mile 17 you will be heading toward the water's edge and approaching Jack London Square, a popular tourist attraction on Oakland's waterfront. Named after the author Jack London and owned by the Port of Oakland, it is the home of stores, restaurants, hotels, an Amtrak station, a ferry dock, the historic Heinold's First and Last Chance Saloon, and the (re-located) cabin Jack London lived in while in the Klondike. Much of this area was formerly an industrial neighborhood which has undergone significant rehabilitation in the last decade including loft conversions and new construction of condos and apartments. You may want to check out the night life and restaurants here and if you are a jazz aficionado "Yoshi's" is the place to go. As you exit Jack London Square heading west, the area takes on a definite industrial/warehouse look and feel. This is thanks in part to the nearby Port of Oakland facility which was the first major port on the Pacific Coast to build terminals for container ships. It is now the fourth busiest container port in the United States and continues to expand. Notice the giant cranes to your left. These behemoths were shipped in several pieces from China a few years back, and the ships carrying the cranes narrowly had enough clearance to make it under the Golden Gate and Bay Bridges. At mile 18, runners make a right onto Market Street and enter West Oakland. Once again you pass a BART station with Mandela Transit Village, a mixed retail and residential development bordering the West Oakland BART station. This was one of the earliest neighborhoods in Oakland to be settled and in 1869 West Oakland became the terminus of the transcontinental railroad. Many of the homes in this area date back to the mid 1800's and were built in the Victorian style giving it its quaint look. It should be noted that African Americans have historically played an important role in Oakland and especially West Oakland. In the early 1900's because of the importance of railroads, many porters lived here and the headquarters of their union, the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters, was located in this neighborhood. Then in the 1930s, Marcus Garvey's Universal Negro Improvement Association had its West Coast headquarters at 8th and Chester Streets. During the 1960's, during the social turmoil of the time, the "Black Panthers" originated in this area. After years of decline, this neighborhood too has started to experience renewal as new residential developments have sprung up and many of the Victorian homes have been remodeled to their former glory.

As you run along the Mandela Parkway, mile 19, some may recall that this was the site of the Cypress Freeway collapse, an elevated, double deck freeway that collapsed onto itself during the 1989 Loma Prieta earthquake. Several people were killed despite heroic rescue efforts by West Oakland residents. The freeway was replaced by Mandela Parkway, a wide thoroughfare with a pedestrian path and greenway in its median, including a park commemorating the 1989 earthquake. It is lined with condominiums and new and established businesses. At mile 20, you turn back to the South (28th Street) and have passed the "wall" in the marathon, hopefully successfully. The terrain continues to be flat for the couple of miles, with no changes in elevation. This area like many other parts of Oakland is slowly undergoing redevelopment from former industrial uses to live-work and other residential forms.



## Lake Merritt to the Finish – Miles 22 to 26.2

As you pass the 21 mile mark, you cross back over Broadway at 27th St., very near where your marathon journey first began. You are now heading for the "jewel" of Oakland, Lake Merritt. Hopefully its sight will lift you to the finish these last couple of miles. Lake Merritt was the first official wildlife refuge in the United States designated in 1870. It houses a large bird sanctuary and is famous for its geese. In fact, "geese" are the mascot for the local running club, Lake Merritt Joggers and Striders. The Lake is a popular venue for runners and walkers, and its sidewalk and paths are filled from dawn to dusk with those who enjoy its tranquil setting. For the Oakland Running Festival's Twilight 5K, running around the Lake will be a relaxing pre-race exercise. As runners round the Lake for the 5K, they can watch the sun set, with its image doubled in the sparkling water. Then twinkling lights will begin to appear that wrap around the entire lake like a jeweled necklace, the "Necklace of Lights." In recent years, Lake Merritt has been the focus of a beautification effort thanks to a bond measure passed by the voters of Oakland in 2002. A multi-purpose path has been built next to the Lake, the sidewalk re-built and widened on the Lakeshore Ave. side, and the Old Boathouse is now the site of the "Lake Chalet" restaurant. In addition, on the northeast tip of the Lake an elaborate Mission Revival pergola was rehabilitated and restored.

Runners enter Lakeside Park at Bellevue, mile 22, and pass by Children's Fairyland, a favorite for toddlers and kids since the 1950's. Along this part of the route, you will pass a number of high rise apartment and condo buildings many built in the "Art Deco" style which recall a more flamboyant era. The one architectural exception is on the corner of Bellevue and Perkins. It stands in stark contrast to its neighbors and its sleek, modern lines seem somehow out of place. As runners round the Lake, mile 23 is passed and as you run on Lakeshore Ave. for the next mile, it will be a study in contrasts. On one side is the majestic Lake, with no buildings to mar its beauty, while on the other side of the street stands row after row of mid-rise apartment buildings. Anchoring these structures at 1200 Lakeshore Ave., is a 25 story skyscraper and one of Oakland's most prestigious luxury apartment complexes. This marks mile 24 in the race and runners now make the turn onto 12th Street and are heading "home," just 2 miles to go now. Directly in front of the runners stands the 12 story, Alameda County Courthouse, an imposing Depression era built structure and the scene of many famous trials over the decades. As you pass by the Courthouse and turn onto Lakeside Dr., the runners now find themselves running next to the Lake again and first pass by on the right the ornate "Camron-Stanford House" built in 1876 and next to it the recently renovated Lake Chalet restaurant. To your left side is the monolithic looking Scottish Rite Temple, built in 1927. Mile 25 is easily identified by the 20 story, Essex luxury high rise apartment building where runners make a left turn onto 19th St. and the finish line is almost in sight. The final mile is a pleasant area, with mid-rise, mixed-use buildings along the way. At 19th & Harrison, you pass by Snow Park, a patch of green amidst the commercial and residential buildings. Once again you cross Broadway and less than a ½ mile to go, with the final turn to the finish at Telegraph and you're done, back where the 26.2 mile race started. Congratulations, wear your finisher's medal with pride and enjoy the hospitality of Celebration Village and bask in the glow of what you have accomplished.

# PACERS

## THE SCOOP ON THE GEICO PACERS

**by Anne and Bob Villanueva**

The role of a pacer can be overwhelming, but this year nearly 30 experienced runners have volunteered six months in advance to be a GEICO pacer for the Oakland Marathon. Each year the waiting list to become a pacer expands. Although pacing is a huge commitment and responsibility, the pacers truly enjoy giving back to the running community and take their mission of consistent pacing seriously.

The most frequently asked question at the expo is always: "What exactly does a GEICO pacer do?" The short answer is that the pacer is responsible for leading a group of runners to a specific time goal for the entire marathon but that's just half of the story. Not only do they have to be neurotic enough to make every mile split but they also need to be part comedian, part tour guide, and part best friend in order to motivate, encourage, and emphasize with the pace participant who may be trying for their personal best time or finishing the most mileage they have ever completed to date!

On the day of the race, every pacer is an instant friend to the pace group participants and tries to give the participant an overview of the course along with a boost of self-confidence before the start of the race. During the 26.2 grueling miles, a pacer sets a consistent pace by wearing a wristband with time splits. Along the way the pacer makes it seem easy by talking to every person in sight, telling jokes, getting the crowd to cheer for their pace group, and if you listen closely, some pace groups give their pace participants an historic tour of the city.

When it comes down to it, GEICO pacers simply love to run and look forward to the stories and relationships they make along the course. Pacers also enjoy the self-fulfillment of knowing that they helped many people on the course by keeping pace and leading their pace group participants, whether their goal was a personal record or simply to cross the finish line.

We hope you decide to Keep Pace With The Gecko this year by joining one of the 10 full marathon pace groups ranging in time from 3:00 to 5:00. For more information, please go to the Geico Pace Groups information page on the Oakland Marathon website. We look forward to seeing you at the pacer booth at the expo and remember on race day!Pacers Lead The Way

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The smoked pork ribs were meaty and tender

Chris Duffey

# CATCH THE FLYING DISC

Disco Volante's rich sights and sounds and late-night eats swoop into downtown Oakland

By Matthew Stafford

We felt happy as soon as we walked into **Disco Volante**, a new nightspot-bar-restaurant in downtown Oakland. Some restaurants are like that. While lesser places tarnish the spirit with somnolent desperation or fluorescent lighting, others, through some indefinable admixture of décor, mood, clientele and soundscape, conspire to make the new arrival buoyant and confident and bright with anticipation.

In Disco Volante's case, it was partly the look (art deco meets baroque North African saloon meets dazzling jazz joint, with stained glass thrown in), partly the oxygen (happy buzzing and clinking of glassware from people of all shapes and ages), partly the name (is it a post-modern Seventies throwback? Some demented example of Italian Martian fusion cuisine? An extraordinarily subtle homage to Ian Fleming's *Thunderball*?) and probably mostly the music (the Isley Brothers' "Fight the Power" followed by the Jackson 5's "Please Baby, Give Me One More Chance" followed by Stevie Wonder's "Ngiculela"). The gleaming expanse of a fully stocked bar and the promise of a Hendricks martini didn't hurt, either.

There's food, too, of course. Chef **Douglas Bernstein**, whose credentials include **Farallon** and **Bacar** in San Francisco, prepares reasonably priced all-day bistro fare like bar snacks, salads, noshes, an upscale burger, a grilled sausage du jour, and a couple of entrées, plus California fusion dinnertime specials that change daily, all made in house (including the sausages and ice cream) out of freshly plucked or reared local ingredients. Each of the dishes is conceptually intriguing, and although the kitchen occasionally opts for either too little or too much in the flavor and texture department, several preparations strike a nice balance between rich, crisp, subtle and spicy.

The bistro menu features several snack items, including corn nuts with lime juice squeezed on top (one of the underwhelming dishes) and dates stuffed with morels, wrapped in bacon and grilled (one of the overwhelming ones; the rice paste on top of the dates was a little too gooey-sweet for the nice, smoky bacon). We were also unimpressed with a slab of bland, spongy chicken terrine layered with wild mushrooms. (Aside: The service all evening was friendly and attentive, and when one of our servers noted that we weren't crazy about the terrine he insisted on removing it from our bill.) The crispy avocado tacos were a treat, though. The "crispy" referred not to the taco but to several thick slices of tempura avocado, stuffed hot and crunchy-creamy into a fresh tortilla with a brisk jicama slaw and a smear of garlicky puréed beans. And the pork ribs were some of the best we'd had: smoky, meaty, and tender enough to make any sort of sauce unnecessary, served with a tangle of peppery red cabbage, and spears of sweet juicy pineapple to accent the pigmeat's rich flavor.

Among the day's specials was a soup of puréed carrots, another nourishing dish despite a big dollop of nettle-green garlic relish floating in the middle of the bowl. On the other side of the coin was a salad of arugula, salsa verde and overly rich and fatty grilled lamb tongue. But another salad successfully balanced the subtle flavor of tender grilled squid against crisp jicama and a bright pumpkin seed salsa, while a side dish of *al dente* charred yams drizzled with green garlic aioli was surprisingly yummy. The best dish of the evening, though, was a perfectly roasted steelhead trout, crisp on the outside and moist and tender within, served on a bed of farro paired with crunchy almonds and snarky green olives.

For dessert there's a marvelous coffee flan far removed from the soft, gentle custard of tradition: dense and chewy as a medium rare steak, it was packed with plenty of caffeinated flavor and was nicely complemented by a couple of light, crisp snickerdoodles. The Root Beer Stank featured two big scoops of rootsy-funky house-made sassafras ice cream, but the vanilla soda that accompanied it was pallid and anticlimactic. Then there was the ganache: a sizable rectangle of thick, dark, sweet chocolate like the innards of a really terrific truffle, served with rounds of grilled bread brushed with olive oil and sprinkled with sea salt. The dessert would've been better if the ganache had been unchilled and easier to spread, but it was still a luscious example of the sweet-salt subgenre.

Although the bistro menu fluctuates and the specials change on a daily basis, vegetarians can count on a fair if not wide-ranging array of meatless options. Smoked pecans, marinated olives, red cabbage slaw, and rosemary chips (as well as the lime-y corn nuts) are among the snacks and sides. Salads include a wild arugula pear-blue cheese tossup and chilled asparagus with mint, yogurt, and pine nuts. The daily soup trends vegetarian, the crispy avocado tacos make a fairly substantial entrée, and recent specials have included roasted beets with horseradish croutons, wild nettle pie with vegetable escabeche, and the charred yams with aioli.

The brief yet wide-ranging wine list (six whites, five reds, a rosé, and two sparklers from France, Italy, Germany, Spain, and Sonoma ranging in price from $22-$45, all of them available by the glass) is outclassed by the exceptional beer selection. There are six drafts (including Berkeley's **Trumer Pils** and Oakland's **Linden Street** Black Lager) and fourteen bottled options ranging from **Chimay** and **Boddingtons** to **Mendocino Brewing Company**'s Red Tail Ale, Davis's **Sudwerk** Hefeweizen, **Anderson Valley Brewing Company**'s Brother David Triple and Bitch Creek ESB by **Grand Teton Brewing Company** out of Victor, Idaho. No house cocktails as of yet — the liquor license only just arrived in the mail — which is something of a relief to those of us taking a breather from the huckleberry vodka scene.

That Hendricks martini was perfection, though, and the setting (an antique terra cotta deco landmark that for years housed a women's clothing store) is a striking high-ceilinged, subtly lit barn of a place with elevated banquettes, cranberry-colored walls, stained glass accents, a vintage jukebox, an all-seeing Lucky Cat over the bar, and a raised stage where live music is performed several nights per week. Opened in early February by co-owners **Kevin Cook**, **Damon Gallaghan** and **Tim Tolle**, Disco Volante is another welcome addition to downtown with its wee-hours menu of tasty food and a most personable vibe. ●

Editor@EastBayExpress.com

### Disco Volante

347 14th St., Oakland
510-663-0271 or DiscoVolanteOakland.com
Cash, Discover, MasterCard, Visa
Hours: Mon.-Wed. 11:30 a.m.-midnight, Thu.-Fri. 11:30 a.m.-1:30 a.m., Sat. 6 p.m.-1:30 a.m., Sun. 6 p.m.-midnight.
Reservations accepted for parties of eight or more

### Sample Menu

| | |
|---|---|
| Yams with Aioli | $5 |
| Grilled Squid Salad | $11 |
| Crispy Avocado Tacos | $8 |
| Roasted Trout with Farro | $18 |
| Smoked Pork Ribs | $14 |
| Coffee Flan | $6 |

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# RESTAURANTS & CAFES

*This guide only lists restaurants recommended by Express food critics. You can find complete reviews for all of these restaurants at EastBayExpress.com. Our print listings rotate regularly as space allows. Our complete Dining Guide is available online, where it is searchable by neighborhood, cuisine, price and more. Price codes assume diners will order a main entrée and beverage, share appetizers and desserts, and tip adequately. $—up to $10 per person. $$—$10-$25; $$$—$25-$50; $$$$—more than $50.*

## ALAMEDA

**Angelfish** 853 Island Dr., Ste. C-2, Alameda, 510-865-0400 (Japanese/Sushi) $-$$

**Asena** 2506 Santa Clara Ave., Alameda, 510-521-4100 (Mediterranean/Greek/Turkish/Organic/Sustainable) $$

**Market at Mila** 1331 Park St., Alameda, 510-522-6821 (Indian/Pakistani)

**Mama's Table** 1515-A Lincoln Ave., Alameda, 510-814-6119 (American/Breakfast/Brunch/California Cuisine) $-$$

**Ole's Waffle Shop** 1507 Park St., Alameda, 510-522-0818 (American/Breakfast/Brunch/Diner) $

**Dosab Restaurant** 1603 Webster St., Alameda, 510-521-9990 (Mexican) $

**Pappo** 2320 Central Ave., Alameda, 510-337-9100 (California Cuisine) $$$

**Sandwich Haven** 2412 Webb Ave., Alameda, 510-521-3300 (Deli) $

## ALBANY, KENSINGTON & BERKELEY-SOLANO

**[illegible]** 1420 Solano Ave., Albany, 510-526-6222 (Korean) $$

**China Village** 1335 Solano Ave., Albany, 510-525-2285 (Chinese) $-$$

**Christopher's Nothing Fancy Cafe** 1019 San Pablo Ave., Albany, 510-526-1185 (Mexican/Southwestern) $-$$

**Fatapple's** 1325 Fairmount Ave., El Cerrito, 510-528-3433 (Bakery/Breakfast/Brunch/Diner) $-$$

**Fonda** 1501A Solano Ave., Berkeley 510-559-9006 (Mexican/Nuevo Latino/Organic/Sustainable/South American/Cuban/Small Plates) $$-$$$

**[illegible]** 856 San Pablo Ave., Albany, 510-528-2220 (Indian/Pakistani) $

**The [illegible] Shop** 909 San Pablo Ave., Albany 510-978-9001 (Mexican) $

**Kathmandu** 1410 Solano Ave., Albany, 510-526-3222 (Tibetan) $$

**Kirin** 1767 Solano Ave., Berkeley 510-524-1677 (Chinese) $$

**Lanesplitter Pizza to Go** 1051 San Pablo Ave., Albany 510-527-8375 (Pizza)

**Renee's Place** 1477 Solano Ave., Albany, 510-525-7330 (Chinese) $$

**Sam's Log Cabin** 945 San Pablo Ave., Albany, 510-558-0494 (American/Breakfast/Brunch/Diner/Organic/Sustainable) $$

**[illegible]** 977 San Pablo Ave., Albany 510-525-1990 (Southeast Asian/Thai/Vietnamese) $$

## BERKELEY-DOWNTOWN

**Beta Lounge** 2123 Grant Ave., Berkeley, 510-845-3250 (Wine Bar/American/Gastropub/Sandwiches/Vietnamese/Mexican/Pizza) $$

**[illegible]** 2011 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley 510-843-5300 (Indian/Pakistani) $

**Bistro Liaison** 1849 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-849-2155 (New American/French/Organic/Sustainable) $$-$$$

**Brazil Fresh Berkeley Cafe** 2161 University Ave., Berkeley 510-845-8011 (Brazilian/South American) $

**Caffe Venezia** 1799 University Ave., Berkeley 510-849-4681 (Italian) $$-$$$

**[illegible]** 2132 Oxford St., Berkeley 510-841-8684 (American/Breakfast/Brunch/Dessert/Ice Cream/Bakery/Vegetarian/Vegan) $

**[illegible]** 3378 Adeline Ave., Berkeley 510-841-0280 (Bakery/Ice Cream) $

**The [illegible]** 2415 Shattuck St., Berkeley 510-843-8323 $

**Flacos** Center Street at Martin Luther King Jr Way, Berkeley (Mexican/Vegetarian/Vegan) $

**Herbivore** 2451 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-665-1915 (Vegetarian/Vegan) $-$$

**Long Life Veggie House** 2129 University Ave., Berkeley 510-845-6072 (Chinese/Organic/Sustainable/Seafood/Vegetarian/Vegan) $

**Looney's Smokehouse** 2190 Bancroft Way, Berkeley 510-649-0628 (Barbecue) $-$$

**Shattuck International Sports Cafe** 2050 University Ave., Berkeley 510-705-1450 (American/Brewpub) $$

**La Note** 2377 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-843-1535 (Breakfast/Brunch/French) $$-$$$

**[illegible]** 2990 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley 510-845-2164 (American/Diner) $

**Raw Energy** 2050 Addison St., Berkeley, 510-665-9464 (Vegetarian/Vegan/Dessert/Ice Cream/Organic/Sustainable) $

**Thai Delight Market** 1700 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-549-0611 (Organic/Sustainable/Southeast Asian/Thai/Burmese) $-$$

**Top Dog** 2382 Center St., Berkeley 510-849-1978 (American/Burgers/Sandwiches/Organic/Sustainable) $

**Turkish Kebab** 1986 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley 510-540-0991 (Middle Eastern) $$

**Udupi Palace** 1901 University Ave., Berkeley 510-843-6600 (Indian/Pakistani/Vegetarian/Vegan) $

**Yogurt Harmony** 2288 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley 510-848-5000 (Dessert/Ice Cream) $

**Zabu Zabu** 1919 Addison St., Berkeley 510-848-9228 (Japanese/Sushi) $$$

# FOOD & WINE

## CULINARY & WINE

**Alice Waters** The chef and author discusses her cookbook, [illegible]. Tue., March 22, 7 p.m., free. Cafe Rouge, 1782 Fourth St., Berkeley, 510-525-1440, CafeRouge.net.

**Addison Lakeview Wine Club Dinners** Meet rotating local vintners and taste their wines, along with a seasonal dinner. Tuesdays, 7:30 p.m., $70. [illegible] Wine Club Dinner, 2601 Seventh St., Suite A, Berkeley.

**Eat, Drink, and Jazz** With live music by The Congress and Crystal Monee Hall, in addition to a meal prepared by [illegible], chef Sarah Kirnon and wine from Urban Legend Cellars. [illegible] Shattuck and Beta Wall Prepared. Sun., March 20, 5 p.m., $70 in advance or $75 at the door. The New Parish, 579 18th St., Oakland, TheNewParish.com.

## FARMERS' MARKETS

**Alameda Farmers' Market** With locally grown fruits and vegetables, plus family activities. For info visit PCFMA.com. Tuesdays, 9:30 a.m.-1 p.m., free. Webster St. [illegible] Haight Ave. & Webster St., Alameda.

**Berkeley Market** With organic produce, sustainable products, a food court, and performances by local bands. Saturdays, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., free. Berkeley Adult School, 1222 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley.

**Emeryville Farmers' Market** With locally grown and produced fruit, vegetables, dairy products, flowers, wine, and more. Thursdays, 10:30 a.m.-5 p.m. Emeryville City Hall, 1333 Park Ave., Emeryville.

**Farm Fresh Choice Community Produce Stand** Farm Fresh Choice runs produce stands in culturally diverse, limited-resource neighborhoods. Wednesdays, 3-6:30 p.m., 510-548-1794, EcologyCenter.org. Frances Albrier Community Center, San Pablo Park, 2800 Park St., Berkeley, 510-981-5150, EcologyCenter.org/ecocenter/farmersmarkets/

**Fruitvale Farmers' Market** With locally grown and produced fruit, vegetables, Pinole Peppers, and more. Sundays, 10 a.m.-3 p.m., free. Fruitvale Village, 3411 E. 12th St. (at Fruitvale BART), Oakland 510-534-8900, [illegible]

**Grand Lake Farmers' Market** Saturdays, 9 a.m.-2 p.m., free. Splash Pad Park, Grand Ave. and Lakeshore, Oakland. 510-745-7275, OaklandNet.com/Parks/Parks/SplashPad.asp

**Kaiser Permanente Hayward Farmers' Market** With Market selling locally grown California produce at the main entrance to the hospital. Wednesdays, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., free. Kaiser Hayward, 27400 Hesperian Blvd., Hayward.

**Kaiser Permanente Oakland Farmers' Market** With Market selling fresh organic fruits and vegetables. Fridays, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., free. Kaiser Oakland, 3600 Broadway, Oakland.

**Kaiser Permanente Union City Farmers' Market** With fresh fruits, nuts, greens, vegetables and flowers. Tuesdays, 11 a.m.-2 p.m., free. Kaiser Medical Center, Union City, 3553 Whipple Rd., Union City.

**Kensington Farmers' Market** With a variety of fresh flowers, an organic chocolatier, and products. Fresh wild fish, fruits and vegetables, nuts, [illegible] and seasonal nutrition. Sundays, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., free. [illegible] Circle, at the Colusa Circle, Kensington.

**Laurel Market Farmers' Market** Sponsored and maintained by Oakland Food Connection. With certified organic produce from [illegible] and a youth-led prepared food booth called the Purple Lawn Cafe. For more info or to find out how to become [illegible], visit [illegible] or call 510-482-1800. Saturdays, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., Laurel [illegible] Farmers' [illegible] 4173 MacArthur Blvd., Oakland.

**[illegible] Farmers' Market** Breads, specialty foods, [illegible] and more for sale, plus special programs and dinner. Thursdays, 3-7 p.m., [illegible] Berkeley, 510-548-3333, EcologyCenter.org.

Shattuck Ave. at Rose St., [illegible].

**Pacific [illegible] Market** Seasonal produce, greens, nuts, freshly baked bread, [illegible] specialty foods, yoga [illegible] and arts and crafts for kids. Sundays, 9 a.m.-2 p.m., free. Jack London Square, [illegible] Broadway, Oakland.

**Richmond Certified Farmers Market** With seasonal produce, eggs, crafts, and apparel. Fridays, 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Richmond Farmers' [illegible] 24th St. & Barrett Ave., Richmond.

**Richmond Farmers' Market** Fresh, locally grown fruit, eggs, and other produce. Fridays, 8 a.m.-2 p.m., free. Richmond [illegible] Market, 24th St. & Barrett Ave., Richmond.

## PICK

### Wine Dinner

Husband and wife wine mavens **Julie Johnson** and **Jon Engelskirger** talk shop and present handcraft of artisanals at **Meritage at the Claremont** (41 Tunnel Rd., Berkeley) on Wednesday, Mar. 23. As part of the three-month **Berkeley Wine Festival**, a reception and gourmet dinner accompany insights from Johnson (who owns Tres Sabores Winery) and Engelskirger (who oversees production at Galney Vineyards). 6:30 p.m., $150. BerkeleyWineFestival.com —*Anneli Rufus*

## BERKELEY-NORTH

**Everest Cafe** 1645 Solano Ave., Berkeley, 510-526-4875 (Chinese/Indian/Pakistani/Tibetan) $ $$

**Fatapple's** 1346 Martin Luther King Jr. Way, Berkeley, 510-526-2260 (Bakery/Breakfast/Brunch/Diner) $ $$

**Flacos** North Berkeley Farmers Market, Berkeley (Mexican/Vegetarian/Vegan) $

**Gioia Pizzeria** 1586 Hopkins St., Berkeley 510-528-4692 (Organic/Sustainable/Pizza) $

**Gregoire** 2109 Cedar St., Berkeley 510-883-1893 (French/Organic/Sustainable) $-$$

**Imperial Tea Court** 1511 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley 510-540-8888 (Chinese/Vegetarian/Vegan) $

**Nature's Express** 1823 Solano Ave., Berkeley 510-527-5331 (Vegetarian/Vegan/American) $

**top dog** 2503 Hearst Ave., Berkeley, 510-843-1241 (American/Burgers/Sandwiches/Organic/Sustainable) $

## BERKELEY-SOUTH

**Breads of India** 2448 Sacramento St., Berkeley 510-848-7684 (Indian/Pakistani/Organic/Sustainable) $-$$

**Flavors of India** 2111 College Ave., Berkeley 510-658-3401 (Indian/Pakistani) $$

**Flacos** Berkeley Tuesday Farmer's Market, Berkeley (Mexican/Vegetarian/Vegan) $

**Holy Land** 2965 College Ave., Berkeley 510-665-1672 (Middle Eastern) $

**Homemade Cafe** 2454 Sacramento St., Berkeley 510-845-1940 (American/Breakfast/Brunch/Diner) $

**Ici** 2948 College Ave., Berkeley, 510-665-6054 (Bakery/California Cuisine/Dessert/Ice Cream/Organic/Sustainable) $$

**Maoz** 2395 Telegraph Ave., Berkeley, 510-356-4000, (Greek/Turkish/Vegetarian/Vegan) $

**Smokehouse** 3115 Telegraph Ave., Berkeley 510-845-3640 (American) $

**Summer Kitchen Bake Shop** 2944 College Ave., Berkeley, 510-981-0528 (American/Burgers/Sandwiches/Bakery) $$

**top dog** 2534 Durant Ave., Berkeley, 510-843-5967 (American/Burgers/Sandwiches/Organic/Sustainable) $

**The Vault** 3013 Adeline St., Berkeley 510-595-8000 (American/Breakfast/Brunch/California Cuisine/Coffeehouses) $-$$

# RECENTLY REVIEWED

### Bowl'd

1479 Solano Ave., Albany, 510-526-6623. Co-owners Jenine Oh and Cui Moon welcome diners of every stripe with a hip-casual ambience, a detailed English-language menu that features infinite possibilities for customization, and a huge quantity of vegan and vegetarian options. Along with Korean items such as Korean BBQ and beef tartare, Bowl'd also offers meatless stews, meatless bibimbap, meatless small plates, and more. Kimchi is made fresh daily here, and finds its way into banchan side dishes, a fabulously intense fried rice, and a kimchi stew served in a helmet-size, too-hot-to-touch stoneware dolsot pot brimming with cinnabar broth, stretchy clear sweet-potato noodles, chewy rice-cake "petals," onions, beef bits, and a Sargasso Sea of fiery fermented cabbage. It's comfort food, but Korean-style comfort can be as spicy as you like. $$

### Southie

6311 College Ave., Oakland, 510-654-0100. Wood Tavern's cozy offshoot serves a brief yet tantalizing menu of artisan sandwiches (the Dungeness crab roll with aioli is especially toothsome) as well as a soup of the day, a couple of cutting-edge crostini, and a few salads (get the poached egg and bacon with frisée and scallions). Sarah's Whoopee Pie — sweet cake layered with cream cheese ice cream — is one of the East Bay's outstanding desserts, and there are two rotating beers and three or four rotating wines on tap. The friendly, easy staff make the place ideal for take-out orders, single diners, and couples. $$$

### Gaumenkitzel

2121 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley, 510-647-5016. Redefining "plain" and "simple" in German farmhouse fare ranging from hand-brown muesli to beef roulade. Hamburg-bred owners Kai Flache and Anja Voth collect recipes from early-20th-century German cookbooks. They use nearly 100 percent organic, local, seasonal, pesticide- and antibiotic-free components, including grass-fed beef — but best of all, they make many of their key ingredients in-house. Flache and Voth curdle their own yogurt, press their own apples, brew their own fruit syrups, and flake their own oats from full kernels. Voth bakes her own bread and rolls and mills her own whole-wheat flour. Breakfast, lunch, teatime, and supper menus suggest an all-day party array. $$

### Hudson

5356 College Ave., Oakland, 510-595-4000. Rockridge's ever-popular Marzano/Garibaldi's complex has spawned a casually elegant Italian-accented New American hangout complete with cocktail lounge. Homemade Meyer lemon tagliatelle and truffled Yukon Gold potato sides. Some of the dishes are overly fussy, but the mussel-calamari pasta, the duck breast with pumpkin spaetzle, the Monterey bass with sherry brown butter, and the salted chocolate ganache tart with olive oil ice cream are delectable. Phantasmagoric cocktail menu, starkly hot setting. $$$$

### Pin Toh

2272 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-845-8424. Pin Toh distinguishes itself among Berkeley's many Thai restaurants with a knack for cooking fresh vegetables to perfection. Even humble carrots, cabbage, and broccoli shine. Via [illegible] many classic Thai dishes, from satay to tom kha to Thai iced tea, in a stylishly green-lit, black-ceilinged space that even in daytime evokes the moody aura of a spacecraft doubling as a dance club. A separate 37-item vegetarian menu meets the standard flesh-filled menu, offering meat-free curries and intriguing entrées such as a house-special pumpkin curry and a soybean-based stir-fry. $

### The Bread Project Café

1701 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley, 510-644-2575. Located in the Berkeley Adult School's hangar-like multipurpose room, this inspiring little nonprofit serves bargain-price breakfasts and lunches along with sexy pizza, and a wide variety of baked goods — made by ex-prison inmates, ex-drug addicts, the formerly homeless, and others who once found themselves down and out. You can't beat the thick-crusted personal pizza, a complete meal topped with meat and/or pickled red onion and hefty goat-cheese chunks. And the tasty baked goods run the gamut from stollen to Anzac cookies to rye bread. $

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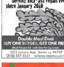

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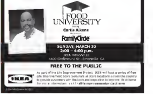

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# Seeking Green Hops

A new standard for organic beer could spell trouble for organic breweries.

**Dan Del Grande** has two years to transition from 95 percent organic ingredients in his beers to a clean 100. It's not as easy as it sounds. When Del Grande bought **Bison Brewing Company** (2030 Fifth St., Berkeley) in 1997, such a goal hadn't yet crossed his mind. It wasn't until 2001, he said, that he even began organic brewing, encouraged to do so as organic German hops began to appear in the United States. "And by 2003," Del Grande recalls, "I could make pretty much any beer I wanted with organic ingredients."

Today he brews a line of nearly a dozen beers, all stamped with the USDA Organic seal. This badge of honor decrees that a product is made with 95-percent organic ingredients by weight. In beer, the ingredients (excluding water) are so dominated by malt that, to achieve the required threshold, a brewer may altogether disregard using organic hops — which usually constitute just two or three percent of a beer's ingredient mass.

But the current five-percent allowance will terminate on January 1, 2013, after which all organic beers will be required to contain only organic hops. For brewers, this could mean trouble, as the supply of organic hops may not meet the rise in demand that's expected to occur. If a 100-percent organic ingredient requirement were to be implemented today, there would not be enough organic hops to go around. Whether that will change in two years is uncertain. Only five of thirty common hop varieties are available organically, according to Del Grande, and in Washington's Yakima Valley, just one-third of one percent of the region's hop acreage — 30,000 acres in all — are organic, he said. Moreover, organic produce must be grown on land that has been farmed organically for at least three years, and if hop growers are to convert to organic to supply the needs of organic craft brewers, they have less than two years to make the switch — meaning that for at least a year while their growers transition, some brewers may have to temporarily drop their organic status. Del Grande intends to keep his, and is now developing an online forum (he's calling it a "hopoperative") where brewers and growers can form a clear line of communication and assure consistent availability of organic hops.

Bison Brewing's year-round staple brews include a chocolate stout, IPA, Belgian ale, and barleywine. They've all survived the test of time, but Del Grande concedes that organic beer is not about enhanced flavors or consumer health — as it may be in, say, organic strawberries. Rather, organic brewing is about farming sustainably, protecting the environment, and ensuring stable soils and clean rivers. It's also, unfortunately, going to mean a fight for ingredients. Come 2013, we'll see which brewers get their hops.

— Alastair Bland

Editor@EastBayExpress.com

## BERKELEY WEST & EMERYVILLE

**Cafe Fanny** 1603 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley, 510-524-5447. (Coffeehouse/California Cuisine/French/Italian/Organic/Sustainable) $$

**[illegible]** 1790 Fourth St., Berkeley, 510-526-4429. (American/Breakfast) $$

**[illegible]** 1782 Fourth St., Berkeley, 510-525-1440. (California Cuisine/French/Organic/Sustainable/Coffeehouse/New American) $$$

**[illegible]** 1885 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley, 510-558-7107. (Bakery/Mexican) $

**[illegible] Poblana** 1321 66th St., Emeryville, 510-923-0491. (Mexican) $$

**Digs Bistro** 1453 Dwight Way, Berkeley, 510-548-2322. (American/California Cuisine/Organic/Sustainable) $$

**Doyle Street Cafe** 5515 Doyle St., Emeryville, 510-547-2586. (Breakfast/Brunch/Diner) $

**Ikea** 4400 Shellmound St., Emeryville, 510-420-4530. (Scandinavian/Fastfood & Home Furnishings) $

**KC's Bar-B-Que** 2613 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley, 510-548-1140. (Barbecue) $-$$

**Lanesplitter Pizza and Pub** 2033 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley, 510-845-1652. (Pizza/Art Gallery) $

**Lois the Pie Queen** 851 60th St., Emeryville, 510-658-5616. (American/Breakfast/Brunch/Southern/Soul Food) $-$$

**Priya Indian Cuisine** 2072 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley, 510-644-2077. (Indian/Pakistani) $-$$

**Sea Salt** 2512 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley, 510-883-1720. (California Cuisine/Organic/Sustainable Seafood) $$-$$$

**Tacubaya** 1788 Fourth St., Berkeley, 510-525-5160. (Mexican/Organic/Sustainable/Tapas/Small Plates) $-$$

**Vik's** 2390 Fourth St., Berkeley, 510-644-4432. (Indian/Pakistani/Tapas/Small Plates) $

## EL CERRITO, RICHMOND & NORTH

**[illegible]** 7395 El Cerrito Plaza, El Cerrito, 510-528-4822. (Deli/German/Seafood/Coffeehouse) $-$$

**[illegible]** 3833 San Pablo Dam Rd., El Sobrante, 510-223-8036. (Central American) $

**[illegible]** 10644-10648 San Pablo Ave., El Cerrito, 510-558-1875. (Japanese/Sushi) $-$$

**[illegible]** 3520 San Pablo Ave., Suite E, Hercules, 510-724-2012. (Barbecue/Deli) $

**[illegible]** 5115 Potrero Ave., El Cerrito, 510-232-8[illegible]. (Steak House) $$-$$$

**[illegible]** 2511 23rd St., Richmond, 510-234-8952. (Mexican/Peruvian) $-$$

**Ristorante Una Rosa** 1596 Fitzgerald Dr., Pinole, 510-223-5420. (Italian) $$

**Tacos Los Primos** Parking lot of 550 23rd St., Richmond. (Mexican) $

**[illegible]** 310 23rd St., Richmond, 510-215-0990. (Mexican) $

**Taqueria La [illegible]** 12345 San Pablo Ave., Richmond, 510-235-2268. (Central American/Mexican/Salvadoran) $

**[illegible] Thai** 844 Willow Ave., [illegible], 510-799-8880. (Southeast Asian/Thai/Burmese) $$

## HAYWARD & SAN LEANDRO

**Han Yang Korean Bar-B-Q Restaurant** 22303 Mission Blvd., Hayward, 510-886-2792. (Barbecue/Korean) $$

**Hong Kong BBQ Restaurant** 20018 Redwood Rd., Castro Valley, 510-583-9368. (Chinese) $

**JJ's Restaurant and Pies** 3317 Castro Valley Blvd., Castro Valley, 510-886-8002. (Diner) $

**The [illegible] House** 21858 Mission Blvd., Hayward, 510-538-8500. (Persian) $$

**[illegible] Jamaican Restaurant** 1004 E. 14th St., San Leandro, 510-533-9409. (Caribbean) $$

**Thai Satay** 1770 E. 14th St., San Leandro, 510-351-2345. (Southeast Asian/Thai/Burmese) $-$$

**Val's Burgers** 2185 Kelly St., Hayward, 510-481-9257. (American/Diner) $

## LAMORINDA

**Bo's Barbecue** 3422 Mount Diablo Blvd., Lafayette, 925-283-7133. (Barbecue/Organic/Sustainable) $-$$

**Casa Orinda** 20 Bryant Way, Orinda, 925-254-2981. (American/Steak House) $$-$$$

**Chow Lafayette** 53 Lafayette Circle, Lafayette, 925-962-2469. (American/California Cuisine/Organic/Sustainable) $$

**El Jarro Mexican Cafe** 3583 Mount Diablo Blvd., Lafayette, 925-299-0639. (Mexican) $-$$

**La Finestra Ristorante** 100 Lafayette Circle, Suite 101, Lafayette, 925-284-5300. (Italian) $$-$$$

**[illegible] Restaurant** 1 [illegible] Way, Orinda, 925-253-9852. (Chinese) $

**Lily's House** 3560 Mount Diablo Blvd., Lafayette, 925-284-7500. (Chinese) $$-$$$

**Metro Lafayette** 3524 Mount Diablo Blvd., Lafayette, 925-284-4422. (Asian Fusion/California Cuisine) $$$

## OAKLAND DOWNTOWN & JACK LONDON SQ

**Breads of India** 948 Clay St., Oakland, 510-834-7684. (Indian/Pakistani) $-$$

**Caffe [illegible]** 1111 Broadway, Lobby Level of AFI Building, Oakland, 510-465-9300. (California Cuisine/Italian) $$-$$$

**Chef Edwards' Bar-B-Que** 1955 San Pablo Ave., Oakland, 510-834-9516. (Breakfast/Southern/Soul Food) $-$$

**Chef Lau's** 301 8th St., Oakland, 510-835-2088. (Chinese/Seafood) $

**[illegible] Bar** 247 Fourth St., Oakland, 510-834-2467. (Burgers/Sandwiches/Breakfast/Brunch/American/New American) $$

**[illegible] Cafe** 718 Washington St., Oakland, 510-433-5492. (American/Breakfast/Brunch/Organic/Sustainable/California Cuisine/Books/Latino) $-$$

**[illegible] Cafe** 33[illegible] Eighth St., Oakland, 510-839-0213. (Chinese) $

**[illegible] Mexican Bistro** 1015 Clay St., Oakland, 510-238-9782. (Burgers/Sandwiches/California Cuisine/Italian/Japanese/Sushi/Organic/Sustainable/Mexican) $$

**[illegible] Restaurant** 701 [illegible] St., Oakland, 510-832-2081. (Chinese/Seafood) $-$$

**[illegible]** 2432 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-832-[illegible]. ([illegible]) $$

**[illegible]** [illegible] Broadway, Oakland, 510-444-7171. (Caribbean) $$$

**[illegible]** 2295 Broadway, Oakland, 510-834-1000. (Southern/Soul Food/American/Barbecue/Cajun/Creole/California Cuisine/New American) $$$

**Plum** 2214 Broadway, Oakland, 510-444-7586. (American/Tapas/Small Plates/California Cuisine/Nuevo Latino/Asian Fusion) $$$

**Rang Dong** 724 Webster St., Oakland, 510-835-8375. (Vietnamese) $

**Shashamane** 2507 Broadway, Oakland, 510-808-4308. (Ethiopian/Eritrean) $$

**Tamarindo Antojeria Mexicana** 468 8th St., Oakland, 510-444-1944. (Mexican/Tapas/Small Plates) $$$

**Top Dog** 2534 16th St., Suite 17, Oakland, 510-625-1680. (American/Burgers/Sandwiches/Organic/Sustainable) $

## OAKLAND-EAST

**[illegible] Diner** 1228 7th Ave., Oakland, 510-835-8989. (Southeast Asian/Vietnamese) $

**La Estrellita Cafe** 446 E. 12th St., Oakland, 510-465-7188. (Mexican/Sports Bars) $$

**Taqueria La [illegible]** 8675 [illegible], Oakland, 510-533-8560. (Mexican) $

**New [illegible]** 831 International Blvd., Oakland, 510-465-9936. (Southeast Asian/Vietnamese) $$

**Old Weang Ping Village** 6207 MacArthur Blvd., Oakland, 510-430-8770. (Southeast Asian/Thai/Burmese) $$

**[illegible] House** 3912 MacArthur Blvd., Oakland, 510-482-8888. (Cambodian/Laotian/Southeast Asian) $

**Pho Hoa Hiep** 221 International Blvd., Oakland, 510-434-9106. (Southeast Asian/Vietnamese) $-$$

**[illegible]** 2138 International Blvd., Oakland, 510-261-4200. (Mexican) $

**[illegible]** 3829 [illegible] Blvd., Oakland, 510-536-1486. (Barbecue/Mexican) $

## OAKLAND-PIEDMONT, GRAND LAKE & EAST

**[illegible]** 82 Grand Ave., Oakland, 510-834-7866. (Japanese/Sushi) $$

**[illegible]** 3952 Piedmont Ave., Oakland, 510-653-3902. (California Cuisine/Eclectic/Exotic/Organic/Sustainable) $$$$

**Dopo** 4293 Piedmont Ave., Oakland, 510-652-3676. (Italian/Organic/Sustainable) $-$$

**[illegible] Fish** 3915 Piedmont Ave., Oakland, 510-645-1912. (Japanese/Sushi) $$

**Breads of India** 4[illegible] La Salle Ave., Suite 2, [illegible], 510-338-0583. (Indian/Pakistani)

**Breads of India** 3270 Lakeshore Ave., Oakland, 510-268-8867. (Indian/Pakistani) $$

**Grégoire** 4001B Piedmont Ave., Oakland, 510-547-3444. (French) $-$$

**Holy Land** 677 Rose Ave., Oakland, 510-272-0535. (Kosher/Israeli/Middle Eastern) $

**Jong Ga House** 372 Grand Ave., Oakland, 510-444-7658. (Korean) $$

**Lanesplitter Pizza and Pub** 538 Lake Park Ave., Oakland, 510-893-6001. (Pizza) $

**[illegible] Restaurant** 6271 Piedmont Ave., Oakland, 510-652-0222. (Italian) $$

**[illegible] Restaurant** 4301 [illegible] Ave., Oakland, 510-428-1520. (African/Ethiopian/Eritrean) $

**[illegible]** 542 Grand Ave., Oakland, 510-452-4801. (American/New American) $$-$$$

**Zza's Trattoria** 552 Grand Ave., Oakland, 510-839-9124. (Italian/Pizza) $$

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## OAKLAND-ROCKRIDGE

**[illegible]** 5301 College Ave., Oakland, 510-985-8388. (Asian Fusion/Seafood) $$-$$$

**[illegible] on College** 5356 College Ave., Oakland, 510-595-4058. (Italian) $$

**[illegible]** 520 College Ave., Berkeley, 510-652-0857. (Japanese/Sushi) $$-$$$

**Nan Yang** 6048 College Ave., Oakland, 510-655-3298. (Southeast Asian) $$

**[illegible]** 6099 Claremont Ave., Oakland, 510-595-8898. (Asian Fusion/California Cuisine) $-$$

**Oliveto** 5655 College Ave., Oakland, 510-547-5356. (Italian/Organic/Sustainable) $$-$$$

**Rustica** 5422 College Ave., Oakland, 510-654-[illegible]. (Italian/Pizza) $-$$

**Shangri-La Vegan Restaurant** 4001 Linden St., Oakland, 510-547-1842. (Vegetarian/Vegan) $

**Soi4 Bangkok Eatery** 5421 College Ave., Oakland, 510-655-0889. (Southeast Asian/Thai/Burmese) $$

**Top Dog** 5600 College Ave., Oakland, 510-601-1157. (American/Burgers/Sandwiches/Organic/Sustainable) $

## OAKLAND-TEMESCAL

**Koryo Wooden Charcoal Barbecue** 4390 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-652-6007. (Korean) $$

**La Calaca Loca** 5199 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-601-0226. (Mexican) $

**Lanesplitter Pizza and Pub** 4799 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-653-5350. (Pizza/Art Gallery) $

**The [illegible]** 5120 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-655-5690. (California Cuisine/Coffeehouse) $$

**Phat Matt's** 4451 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-879-7284. (Barbecue/American/Burgers/Southern/Soul Food) $-$$

**Pizzaiolo** 5008 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-652-4888. (California Cuisine/Organic/Sustainable/Pizza) $$-$$$

**Sahn Maru** 4315 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-653-3366. (Korean) $-$$

**[illegible] Barbecue House** 2000 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-834-8757. (Korean) $-$$

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# MOVIES

# I'M A STRANGER HERE MYSELF

Visitors come calling in *Jane Eyre* and *Paul*.

By Kelly Vance

Mia Wasikowska in Cary Joji Fukunaga's new adaptation of *Jane Eyre*

***Jane Eyre*** is sure to send the nation's few remaining English lit majors (hello out there!) and devotees of coffee-table films in general into paroxysms of joy. As everyone knows, **Charlotte Brontë**'s novel is not only arguably the mother of all romantic bodice-rippers and a prime feminist head of Chick Lit, but also one the most filmed properties in existence.

Depending on whom you believe, Ms. Brontë's 1847 tale of our long-suffering, headstrong heroine's love patiently waiting to be consummated has been the subject of a near-record number of screen adaptations — IMDB lists some 22 movie and TV versions. It's positively unavoidable. People who have studiously resisted reading the book nevertheless have a favorite *Jane Eyre* movie.

The 1943 Joan Fontaine/20th Century Fox version from Hollywood, with Orson Welles as a brooding (what else?) Rochester and Agnes Moorehead as the cruel Mrs. Reed, is probably one of the best known, but they come in all shapes and sizes, as long as the shape is Gothic and the size can contain a swelling bosom. Second City Television's scrumptious parody *Jane Eyrehead* may have turned the novel into a lowbrow tribute to 1950s TV — pitting Andrea Martin as Jane against a caterwauling Rochester played by Joe Flaherty as Eddie "Rochester" Anderson from the *Jack Benny Show* — but even that slapstick spinoff wouldn't dare neglect the misty moors and somber wardrobe.

Neither would **Cary Joji Fukunaga**. The director of the striking 2009 illegal immigrant drama ***Sin Nombre*** enshrines Brontë's story in a scrupulously maintained 19th-century setting, with carefully modulated performances by **Mia Wasikowska** and **Michael Fassbender** in the lead roles and a distinct look of tinkering with the franchise.

Ms. Wasikowska is a pleasant surprise as Jane. The 21-year-old Australian actor seems to have aged ten years since her ingénue starring role in ***Alice in Wonderland*** — released just last year. Her pale European features and solid manner were well suited for that fanciful part as well as her turn as a Belarus resistance maiden in 2008's ***Defiance***. But it was in ***The Kids Are All Right***, a household sitcom devoid of costumed camouflage, that she had a chance to show off her dramatic nimbleness. Filmmaker Fukunaga, who took care to establish fully dimensional female protagonists in *Sin Nombre*, and screenplay adapter **Moira Buffini** (***Tamara Drewe***), imagine Jane Eyre as a willful, intelligent, discreetly calculating young woman who is aware that she must play the cards that she's been dealt very carefully, and cry about her misfortune later.

The perils of a penniless, orphaned, adolescent middle-class girl in the English Midlands during the Industrial Revolution are numerous. Fukunaga sketches in the indignities Jane faces in the house of her aunt, the spiteful Mrs. Reed (**Sally Hawkins**), and in the dreary Lowood School for disadvantaged girls, with the same attention to detail he used to describe the Mexican gangster life in *Sin Nombre*. The class antagonism is unmistakable. When you're poor, people can mistreat you with impunity and you have to endure it. But Jane takes matters into her own hands, more or less.

Fassbender handles Rochester in the approved fashion, as a humorless, careworn yet vulnerable man with a guilty secret and a secret room. The rest of the supporting cast rises to the Victorian occasion with guests **Judi Dench** as kindly Mrs. Fairfax, **Jamie Bell** as St. John Rivers the accommodating missionary, **Freya Parks** as Jane's doomed friend Helen, squirrelly **Simon McBurney** as Mr. Brocklehurst, **Imogen Poots** as bubbly Blanche Ingram, and **Valentina Cervi** as mad Bertha Mason. The old dark house, Thornfield Hall, is of course a character unto itself.

These are well-trained actors performing a classic of English literature, and they could do it in their sleep — which doesn't mean we should nod off while watching them. Fukunaga's *Jane Eyre* has a slight touch of the embalmed about it, despite Wasikowska's intense role-playing (with her red hair, she reminds us of **Isabelle Huppert**'s costumed frolics) and the able scene-setting.

Forthright Jane demands passion and will settle for nothing less. The banked fire behind Wasikowska's eyes somehow doesn't blaze with frustrated desire — it's up to us to read into her gaze all the emotion she suppresses — and yet it's perfectly in character for a young woman on a serious mission. In the meantime, 33-year-old Fukunaga, a native of Oakland, performs his own mission: a quantum leap from tense, topical actioners to sedate prestige productions.

**British** funnymen **Simon Pegg** and **Nick Frost** have teamed successfully in such mayhem-filled hilarities as ***Shaun of the Dead*** and ***Hot Fuzz***, but in their bright new road trip comedy ***Paul*** (directed by **Greg Mottola** from Pegg and Frost's script), they tackle something more menacing than flesh-eating zombies or angry villagers: the US of A.

Chubby Clive Gollings (Frost), a would-be science-fiction author, and his friend Graeme Willy (Pegg), together a pair of suspiciously affectionate dim bulbs, have come from England to San Diego for Comic-Con. Like everyone else there, nerds Clive and Graeme wear obscure fantasy-inspired T-shirts and bewildered expressions, especially in the presence of famous authors like Adam Shadowchild (**Jeffrey Tambor**), who blows them off when he sees they're not buying a book. But their stateside experience is only just beginning. The boys have rented a humongous RV and plan to tour UFO sites in the Southwest. Let's discover America!

They learn more than they really wanted to know. Rednecks want to beat them up for talking funny. A menacing sheriff grills them about why people in the UK don't have guns ("How can the cops kill anyone then?" "Well, they don't really mean to kill anyone."). They meet a backward young woman named Ruth Buggs (**Kristen Wiig**) in the RV park where she works. Ruth wears strange eyeglasses and hates evolutionists.

They also accumulate a hitchhiker, an outer-space alien named Paul (voiced brilliantly by **Seth Rogen**) who has just escaped from a deserted air force base after spending more than forty years being studied by scientists. Paul has absorbed everything there is to know about Americans, so he becomes more than just a real, live, bug-eyed ET to Clive and Graeme, as if that weren't exciting enough — he's their tour guide. Then a national security spook (**Jason Bateman**) and his crew join the chase. Hella guffaws ensue. ●

Editor@EastBayExpress.com

### Jane Eyre

Directed by Cary Joji Fukunaga. With Mia Wasikowska and Michael Fassbender. Opens Friday.

### Paul

Directed by Greg Mottola. With Seth Rogen, Simon Pegg, and Nick Frost. Opens Friday.

# MOVIES & THEATERS

*To learn where a movie is playing, note the abbreviations at the end of each listing, then consult the theater guide at the bottom of this page. Capsule reviews are written by Andrea Gronvall (A.G.), Colin Hodson (C.H.), J.R. Jones (J.J.), and Kelly Vance (K.V.). For a schedule of repertory films, see One-Night Stands at the end of these listings. Please send info fourteen days before event date to editor@eastbayexpress.com.*

## OPENING

**Heartbeats** Francis (played by director Xavier Dolan) and Marie (Monia Chokri), a pair of [illegible] urban sophisticates [illegible], and [illegible] angling for the same flower boy [illegible] (Niels Schneider), with [illegible] Dolan [illegible] his trying film *I Killed My Mother* [illegible] Dolan dominates most of the [illegible] character is interesting enough, [illegible] grimly [illegible] sidelines him in every scene. What is more puzzling is the filmmaker's use of extraneous characters (ex-lovers of the principals) as a sort of Greek chorus [illegible] they come across as [illegible] Dolan auditioning for the big part. Other complaints: the many musical interludes, the [illegible] pacing, and generally not [illegible] in the sandwich. (95 min.) (K.V.)

**The Music Never Stopped** The producers of this [illegible] fortune in [illegible] The [illegible] is [illegible] part of the therapy for Gabriel (Lou Taylor Pucci), a long-lost former [illegible] and flower child whose brain tumor has caused him to lose [illegible] memory [illegible] he still listens to 1960s [illegible] and grooves heartily to the Grateful Dead. The [illegible] adapted by Gwyn Lurie and Gary Marks from a case study, "The Last Hippie," by Oliver Sacks (*Awakenings*), [illegible] J.K. Simmons [illegible] Cara Seymour as Gabe's [illegible] Sort of [illegible] produced and directed by Jim Kohlberg. (105 min.) (K.V.)

**Paul** This witty [illegible] and yet [illegible] road-trip comedy [illegible] the collision of two [illegible] America [illegible] a pair of dumbfounded science-fiction nerds from England (Simon Pegg and Nick Frost) and the [illegible] ET [illegible] from forty years' confinement at an air force base (voiced hilariously by Seth Rogen). The two boys meet the [illegible] in the desert Southwest, [illegible] scary [illegible] for all three of [illegible] ers Pegg & Frost make the most out of the land and its [illegible] Jason Bateman [illegible] an RV-park [illegible] named Ruth Buggs (Kristen Wiig). Smooth [illegible] by Greg Mottola (*Superbad*). (104 min.) (K.V.) [illegible] CA

**Phil Ochs: There but for Fortune** It's a bit [illegible] but writer-director Kenneth Bowser's documentary [illegible] Phil Ochs [illegible] the gaps in our knowledge of the life and times of the 1960s singer-songwriter, who specialized in [illegible] songs [illegible] in the thick of that era's "movement" politics [illegible] his manic career ruined his [illegible] and physical health. The [illegible] Bob Dylan, who didn't [illegible] Christopher Hitchens, Joan Baez, and [illegible] producer [illegible] (96 min.) (K.V.) (RCE

### Showtimes Online

Movie showtimes and online ticket-buying at EastBayExpress.com

### Theater Guide

This guide explains the abbreviations at the end of each capsule. **AL** = Landmark Albany; **APC** = Alameda Theatre & Cineplex; **BC** = Brenden Concord; **BH** = Cinemark Brentwood; **BP** = Brenden Pittsburg; **BS** = AMC Bay Street; **CA** = Landmark California; **CAPH** = Cinemark Pleasant Hill; **CB** = Century [illegible]; **CCC** = Contra Costa Cinemas; **CCPH** = Century Pleasant Hill; **CH** = Century Hilltop; **CHY** = Century Hayward; **CIN** = Cinedome Newark; **CRC** = Regal Crow Canyon; **CSS** = Chabot Space and Science; **CUC** = Century Union City; **CWC** = Century Walnut Creek; **DV** = AMC Deer Valley; **GL** = Grand Lake; **JL** = Regal Jack London; **NB** = Nar & [illegible]; **OR** = Orinda; **PFA** = Pacific Film Archive; **PM** = Landmark Piedmont; **RCC** = Rialto Cinemas Cerrito; **RCE** = Rialto Cinemas Elmwood; **RH** = Regal Hacienda; **RT** = Rheem Theatre; **S** = Landmark Shattuck; **UAB** = UA Berkeley; **UAEB** = UA Emery Bay; **V** = Vine; **WWS** = West Wind Solano.

## MOT

## ONGOING

**The Adjustment Bureau** [illegible] Dreamy combo of sci-fi and romance nevertheless yields modest dividends. Adapted from a short story by [illegible] Philip K. Dick, it is [illegible] romantic tale of an Alexander New York City politician (Matt Damon) [illegible] budding relationship with a dancer (Emily Blunt) keeps getting nipped by fedora-hatted, superpowered agents — can we call them "guardian angels"? — determined to undo the would-be lovers [illegible] to a mysterious "plan." [illegible] are quite appealing by themselves — who needs all the [illegible] stuff? Costarring Anthony Mackie, John Slattery, and [illegible] Stamp as the plot's enforcers. Screenplay and direction by George Nolfi, who co-wrote The Bourne Ultimatum. (107 min.) [illegible]

**Battle: Los Angeles** [illegible] with gung-ho [illegible] Marines and people shock-and-awe visual [illegible] this [illegible] sci-fi [illegible] an army of invaders [illegible] Independence Day-style movie against a [illegible] of alien warriors from the Fifth [illegible] "Saving Private Ryan" [illegible] of World War II. [illegible] unknown — intelligent, determined and [illegible] — are led by a staff sergeant with a checkered past (Aaron Eckhart) who eventually inspires his troops to compare him to John Wayne. Though the aliens are supposedly attacking the entire planet, this [illegible] movie [illegible] Santa Monica. [illegible] find time to rescue [illegible] civilians [illegible] (Michael Peña), and a [illegible] (Bridget Moynahan). Jonathan Liebesman directed. (117 min.) [illegible]

**Beastly** [illegible] youth-market update of Beauty and the Beast [illegible] as a teenage [illegible] fly play. A vain, pompous rich kid (Alex Pettyfer) gets transformed by the [illegible] (Mary-Kate Olsen) into an ugly guy [illegible] makeup, and the only way to break the spell is for him to convince someone to say "I love you." That's where Vanessa Hudgens comes in, as the girl who imparts valuable life [illegible] Though [illegible] Michael [illegible] by Daniel Barnz, who adapted the screenplay from Alex Flinn's novel. (95 min.) [illegible]

**Big Mommas: Like Father, Like Son** Latest [illegible] in the [illegible] Big Momma's franchise, starring Martin Lawrence as the cross-dressing title character. Directed by John Whitesell, written by Matthew Fogel and Don Rhymer, [illegible] Brandon T. Jackson. [illegible]

**Biutiful** Overloaded with misery and [illegible] the [illegible] with a film by Alejandro González Iñárritu (Babel, 21 Grams). [illegible] Javier Bardem does what he can with the role of Uxbal, a [illegible] Barcelona who [illegible] his troubled family, a factory full of suffering Chinese immigrant workers, his squad of illegal African street vendors, [illegible] people of Christmas past, but [illegible] who wrote the screenplay with Armando Bo and [illegible] — defeats him at [illegible] every turn. The last [illegible] is probably the [illegible] of butterflies [illegible] on the [illegible] ceiling, [illegible] thought while sitting in the dark: Ever [illegible] how much Bardem has [illegible] Anthony Quinn at the same age? [illegible] Blanca [illegible], and Eduard Fernández costar. (147 min.) [illegible]

**Black Swan** Natalie Portman's performance as a [illegible] troubled young [illegible] Aronofsky's psychological [illegible] isn't that different in proportion from his portrait of [illegible] in The Wrestler [illegible] the breakthrough "grownup" role [illegible] Portman portrays Nina, up for the lead part in Tchaikovsky's Swan Lake and [illegible] by a rival dancer (Mila Kunis), the [illegible] company's [illegible] (Vincent Cassel), and her own [illegible] mother (Barbara Hershey) — but Nina's biggest [illegible] are of the [illegible] Brian De Palma, David Cronenberg, Roman Polanski, and Michael Powell (The Red Shoes) but director and co-adapter Aronofsky (with Mark Heyman, Andres Heinz, and John J. McLaughlin, from Heinz's story) definitely adds his personal stamp to the increasingly [illegible] [illegible] to all four [illegible] actors, [illegible] (107 min.) [illegible]

**Cedar Rapids** [illegible] the [illegible] side of the [illegible] than The Hangover [illegible] Ed Helms, as an incredibly [illegible] insurance agent who [illegible] in Cedar Rapids [illegible] Las Vegas. Maybe that's why [illegible] Payne (About Schmidt, Election) [illegible] John C. Reilly, [illegible] Anne Heche, [illegible] Could [illegible] a TV [illegible] Directed by Miguel Arteta [illegible] from a screenplay by Phil Johnston. (86 min.) [illegible]

**Certified Copy** The best way to look at this is as an acting exercise. [illegible] a small town in Tuscany, a visiting British art expert named James (William Shimell) meets a French woman named Marie who runs an art gallery (Juliette Binoche) and they drive off for some sightseeing. Midway through the afternoon, Marie begins pretending [illegible] that she and James are a fifteen-year [illegible] couple [illegible] to a point. It's another Abbas Kiarostami movie concerned more with [illegible] the questions of [illegible] and the authentic than with who-what-[illegible] As long as your patience holds, it's [illegible] something of an "award people" for the [illegible] international writer-director of White Balloon and Taste of Cherry. (106 min.) [illegible]

**Dinosaurs Alive!** From the Triassic to the Cretaceous, dinosaurs are [illegible] by paleontologists and portrayed in realistic CGI. [illegible]

**Drive Angry** [illegible] weird psychosexual [illegible] Nicolas Cage [illegible] which a dead [illegible] driver (Cage) breaks out of Hell to rescue his granddaughter from a [illegible] cult. Despite the [illegible] [illegible] Patrick Lussier directed. (104 min.) [illegible]

**Even the Rain** [illegible] political allegory has two modern-day Spanish filmmakers (Gael García Bernal and Luis Tosar) and their cast and crew [illegible] in the middle of the [illegible] Cochabamba [illegible] in Bolivia [illegible] international corporations own the water supply [illegible] while trying to make a movie about [illegible] indigenous people's [illegible] by Spanish conquistadors [illegible] Screenwriter Paul Laverty (The Wind that Shakes the Barley) and [illegible] of view [illegible] for its own good, but [illegible] Juan Carlos Aduviri [illegible] is well worth watching. (104 min.) [illegible]

**The Fighter** Better-than-average boxing pic is nevertheless hampered by a [illegible] screenplay and [illegible] overacting by virtually the entire cast. Working-class hometown favorite Micky Ward (Mark Wahlberg, playing a real-life fighter) must overcome the "help" of his crack-addicted [illegible] brother (Christian Bale) and their overbearing mother (Melissa Leo) while trying to punch his way to the top. Also in Micky's corner is his equally tough girlfriend (Amy Adams). The fight sequences are the best thing [illegible] The knuckle-sandwich script, by a [illegible] of four writers, [illegible] but Micky's story is [illegible] Why didn't they make this a documentary instead? (114 min.) [illegible]

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Lou Taylor Pucci suffers near-term memory loss in *The Music Never Stopped*.

**Gnomeo and Juliet** Terra-cotta gnomes, the sort that [illegible] people always, are the characters of this bizarre feature animation, which transposes the [illegible] storylines with gardening and speaks a long [illegible] pitched to kids and [illegible]. On two [illegible] backyards, [illegible] of brightly painted figurines wage a [illegible] turf war after a young blue gnome of the Montague Reservoir (given voice by James McAvoy) falls for the red princess of the next-door Capulet cottage (Emily Blunt). There's some [illegible] innuendo and numerous [illegible] to [illegible], not to mention a slew of puns, inside jokes, and tunes by Elton John. Kelly Asbury (*Shrek 2*) directed, with Michael Caine, Maggie Smith, Patrick Stewart, and Ozzy Osbourne (as a spaced-out fawn). (80 min.) (A.G.) BP, CWC, CB, CEPH, CH, CUC, CR, EH, RH, JL, UAEB, WWS

**Hall Pass** The Farrelly Brothers were the kings of "young male" comedy in the late Nineties and early 2000s (*Dumb and Dumber*, *There's Something About Mary*), but time has passed them by. In this tired-looking [illegible], family men Owen Wilson and Jason Sudeikis are each granted a "week off" by their wives (Jenna Fischer and Christina Applegate) to act like they're single again.

But they have a tough time [illegible] their [illegible] with reality and [illegible]. What fun is that? After we get past the [illegible] money shots it might as well be a sexual abstinence PSA. Quick question: If there's [illegible] made [illegible], where's the female version? Pete Jones and Kevin Barnett helped Peter and Bobby Farrelly write the screenplay [illegible]. (105 min.) (KV) BP, CWC, CB, CEPH, CH, CUC, CH, CCC, RH, JL, UAE, UACB, WWS

**The Human Resources Manager** Hebrew-language drama about the Israeli HR manager (Mark Ivanir) who is trying to stop a defamatory article about the business, an industrial bakery, from being published. Directed by Eran Riklis; adapted by Noah Stollman from the novel by Abraham B. Yehoshua. (103 min.)

**I Am** Interview-based documentary in which director Tom Shadyac asks scientists, gurus, world leaders, and [illegible] what they believe the biggest problem facing the world today are, and how to fix them. Featuring Desmond Tutu, Noam Chomsky, and many others. (76 min.)

**I Am Number Four** Sci-fi teen drama about an alien passing as a high school student (Alex Pettyfer) who must [illegible] with the invading species out to kill him and his feelings for a human (Dianna Agron). Based on the young adult novel of the same name by Jobie Hughes and James Frey. Directed by D.J. Caruso and adapted for the screen by Alfred Gough, Miles Millar, and Marti Noxon. BP, CWC, CB, CEPH, CH, CUC, RH, JL

**Inside Job** So who got us into the Great Recession? Greedy [illegible] financiers, [illegible], and every regulation-destroying politician and government official since [illegible] Reagan, says this outraged but [illegible] doc by Charles Ferguson (*No End in Sight*). The mountain of [illegible] evidence is [illegible] high to climb, but [illegible] Ferguson, [illegible] Chad Beck and Adam Bolt, and [illegible] Matt Damon lay it all out in a [illegible]. The [illegible] but quite well, [illegible], but the rest of us [illegible] to pay the tab for the "global Ponzi scheme" that moved billions of dollars into a very few pockets — "private gains at public loss," as one [illegible] describes it. The film's parting question: What can we do about it? Talking heads include French finance minister Christine Lagarde, IMF chief Dominique Strauss-Kahn, and [illegible] George Soros. (120 min.) (KV) [illegible]

**Just Go With It** Jennifer Aniston has [illegible] in so many lame romantic comedies that she's [illegible] an industry punch line, but drop her into an Adam Sandler movie and she [illegible] off like Katharine Hepburn. Sandler is a [illegible] surgeon who's always [illegible] as a married man to attract women after [illegible] the [illegible] of his divorce; he persuades [illegible], his office manager, to pose as his wife so he can [illegible] her. The

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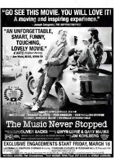
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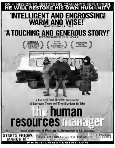
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Juliette Binoche runs an art gallery in Tuscany in Abbas Kiarostami's Certified Copy.

story originated as a French play and was later turned into Cactus Flower (1969), a Hollywood film scripted by Billy Wilder's partner in crime I.A.L. Diamond; watching Aniston's sharp verbal timing, you wonder if this might have been a great comedy sans Sandler and his lame gags. Nicole Kidman has a supporting comic role as the office manager's "frenemy" from college. [illegible] to keep up the ruse, and [illegible] performance [illegible] you appreciate Aniston's deft [illegible] more. Dennis Dugan (Grown Ups) directed. (116 min.) (CJ 16), CWC, CEPH, CH, CUC, [illegible]

**Justin Bieber: Never Say Never** You don't need to be a devotee to appreciate Never Say Never, but it definitely helps. At its heart, it's a straightforward [illegible] though passable [illegible] concert doc following the Canadian superstar/Twitter virtuoso/[illegible] brings enthusiasm as he prepares to play Madison Square Garden. The at its best moments [illegible] a Snoop Dogg cameo, a segment that gently pokes fun at Bieber's obsessive fans, a too-cheesy-not-to-be-ironic photoshoot montage [illegible] it's self-deprecating, surprisingly mature, and laugh-out-loud hilarious. The 3D is largely imperceptible, but that's not the real draw here anyway. G (105 min.) (E.C.) CWC, CUC, [illegible]

**The King's Speech** No holiday season would be complete without a stately British historical drama, and the Weinstein Company obliges us this year with this pleasant drama about the Duke of York (Colin Firth), who had to overcome a terrible stammer in order to take the throne as King George VI and lead his people against the Nazi threat. The film is based on the uncovered diaries of Lionel Logue (Geoffrey Rush), the Australian speech therapist who succeeded where others had failed in treating the royal's vocal impediment, and the two leads keep the movie afloat with their light-footed close [illegible]. This Anglican buddy romance is buoyed by a spicy history lesson: Note the scandalous [illegible] of the duke's elder brother, Edward VIII, to the twice-divorced Wallis Simpson, which forced him from the throne, and by Timothy Spall as a rasping, cigar-chewing Winston Churchill. Tom Hooper directed with Helena Bonham Carter, Guy Pearce, Derek Jacobi, and Michael Gambon as the imperious George V. (118 min.) (J.J.) CWC, CEPH, CUC, CAPH, [illegible]

**The Last Lions** Renowned wildlife filmmakers Beverly and Dereck Joubert spent six years shooting this National Geographic documentary, which illustrates the rapid decline in the world's lion population. After an African lion is killed by a rival pride, its mate and three cubs flee to an island in a Botswana river delta, where the lioness encounters a large herd of aggressive buffalo. [illegible] just as deadly. Many of the sequences are intense; this movie in which the lioness refines her hunting strategies in unfamiliar territory. But they're undercut by Jeremy Irons's sonorous narration, with its undue emphasis on what "emotions" the big cats are feeling (as if any human could claim to know that). (88 min.) (A.B.) CAPH [illegible]

**Mars Needs Moms** Computer-animated sci-fi flick about a kid (Seth Green) whose mother (Joan Cusack) is kidnapped by Mars and must be rescued. Directed by Simon Wells, written by Simon and Wendy Wells [illegible] with Robert Dudley [illegible]

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**No Strings Attached** [illegible]

**Nora's Will** [illegible]

**Of Gods and Men** [illegible]

**Rango** [illegible]

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MON-THUR 4:35 7:00 9:30

MARS NEEDS MOMS (PG)
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# MUSIC

# TWO SIDES OF TY SEGALL

Up-and-coming garage rocker makes some noise — a lot of it, in fact — and keeps his cool too

By Christopher Danzig

Playing at Rickshaw Stop in January, 23-year-old garage rocker **Ty Segall** came onstage to an ecstatic full house — and he wasn't even headlining. He tore through his set of psychotic surf rock, his blond hair obscuring his joyfully screaming face for most of the show. His music brought to mind **The Ramones**, if only they had played while being struck by lightning and standing in a bathtub full of water and electrical appliances.

I ran into Segall a week later in the crowd at a **Motörhead** concert. That night, he was an anonymous fan like everybody else, transfixed — and partially deafened — by the legends on stage.

And yet, in the Bay Area indie music scene, Segall is anything but anonymous. *Melted*, his album from last year, landed on various "Best of 2010" lists, including **Pitchfork** and **NPR**'s. He has spent six months of the last year touring the US and Europe.

This week, Segall and his band are in Austin, Texas, performing at South by Southwest. He's "only" doing four shows at the festival this year, compared with the marathon of ten sets in four days that he played last year. "That was really stupid. It was way too much," he lamented.

Segall seemed relatively low-key while grabbing tacos at **El Castillito** in San Francisco in February. Having just finished his forthcoming album *Goodbye Bread*, he was taking some time to relax before going back on tour the following week. Segall wore a blue sweater that accented his very blue eyes. This time, his long hair was mostly under control and pushed to the sides of his round, cherubic face.

Segall was raised in Laguna Beach. He moved to the city to attend the **University of San Francisco**, from which he graduated in 2009 with a degree in media studies. He was a DJ at KUSF during his student days and he spoke out this year against the campus radio station's sale and shuttering. Before he went solo, Segall played guitar and drums in a series of garage rock bands, among them **The Traditional Fools**, **Epsilons** and **Sic Alps**. He got his first break, so to speak, when **John Dwyer** of **Thee Oh Sees** saw him drumming with The Traditional Fools. That night, Segall had a cast on his fractured arm. He played by shoving the drumstick up the cast and swinging his arm.

After the show, Segall says Dwyer walked up to him and said, "That was awesome, buddy. I've never seen that before."

Dwyer, also a San Franciscan, asked The Traditional Fools to open for his band, and he helped point Segall toward various labels. Soon enough, Segall was performing by himself, playing guitar and stomping a kick-drum, one-man-band style. He built a following, and eventually went on tour with Thee Oh Sees and Sic Alps.

Garage rocker Ty Segall says his forthcoming album is "stranger, a bit more psychedelic" than his previous work.

Segall landed on Memphis-based **Goner Records**, which was also the home of popular garage-rocker **Jay Reatard**, who died last year. Segall started pumping out EPs, split albums and full-length records. He records most of his work in a friend's basement studio in San Francisco's Chinatown. Despite the drowning-in-fuzz quality to most, if not all of his songs, Segall said he's a production perfectionist.

"There's great moments in mistakes," he said. But once everything is recorded, he spends a lot of time mixing and making everything sound right. "It's controlled noise with a lot of structure," he said.

Segall's arrival in the Bay Area coincided with his discovery of psychedelic music, which he blends with SoCal surf roots to produce his signature sound.

"I didn't really get into psychedelic music until I moved to San Francisco," he said. "Two months into living here I bought my first 13th Floor Elevators record."

**Show Details**
Ty Segall performs at Bottom of the Hill (1233 17th St., San Francisco) on Thursday, April 21, 8:30 p.m. BottomoftheHill.com

These days, Segall does play with a live band. Former USF classmate **Emily Epstein** pounds the hell out of the drums, **Charlie Moothart** from **The Moonhearts** plays rhythm guitar and **Denee Petracek**, Segall's girlfriend, plays bass.

Segall is finally pacing his releases, accepting that sometimes there simply isn't enough time to do everything at once. It's better to respectfully say no to prospective collaborators than put out weaker material, he decided. "Even if it's a 7-inch, I never want to give anybody anything bad."

Thus far, his songs and albums have been quick and to the point. Both *Melted* and *Lemons*, his 2009 full-length release on Goner, clock in at barely thirty minutes, and the vast majority of the songs run well under three minutes. In a quippy review of *Melted*, Pitchfork wrote that in Segall's work, "there's rarely room for pesky little details like verses."

Segall says he has trouble describing his own music, but he says the new album, set for release on June 21, goes in a different direction. He worked with a new label, **Drag City**, to help facilitate the shift.

"It's a bit stranger, a bit more psychedelic," he says. "Less aggressive."

The songs on forthcoming LP *Goodbye Bread* are also a bit longer, and the album deals with his experiences living in California — from playing the social game and surviving expectations, to the numbness he sees in many people.

"I wanted to get a bit more abstract," he said. "There's more of a fluid idea throughout the whole album."

He says the title song is his farewell to a "normal" existence — a conscious acknowledgement of the life he wants to lead, regardless of where it takes him. Segall is learning to manage that life by slowing down in between tours and recently, by deactivating his e-mail. "It was starting to affect my life in a bad way," Segall said. "[I decided,] man, this is too much, I need to get away."

In conversation, Segall is extraordinarily mellow. Not in the pothead sense; he just gives off a relaxed, happy vibe. He frequently refers to people as "man" or "buddy." At first it was hard to reconcile the shrieking, hurtling rock star on stage with the dully jovial, ordinary young man next to me, eating a giant vegetarian taco.

But that's what makes Ty Segall's music so awesome. We all have songs we blast and gleefully shout along to on the drive home from work. Or we have a classic we dance to, *Risky Business*-style, during private spats of spring cleaning. Segall is a normal guy; the only difference is that he's got something special that allows him to go nuts on stage, instead of in a lonely living room. ●

Rachel.Swan@EastBayExpress.com

# BONE THUGS KEEP BLAZIN'

Famed Nineties hip-hop act delivers a smokin' set at Yoshi's — with a little hip-hop foolery

By Nate Seltenrich

Bone Thugs-N-Harmony

**W**ell over sixty minutes into **Bone Thugs-N-Harmony**'s Friday night set at Yoshi's San Francisco — and they'd yet to inhale a single blunt, joint, bowl or bong onstage. Were we at the wrong show? Or rather, they'd cleaned up their act. Maybe the reunited band (four-fifths of it, at least) on the verge of celebrating its twentieth anniversary had decided to go squeaky-clean harmony and not streets-of-Cleveland thug during its 36-city victory lap. But wait. Hadn't the opening act featured someone singing "Smokin' Weed Again," flat and off key, to the tune of **War**'s "Why Can't We Be Friends?" Hadn't someone tossed a huge joint onstage from the back of the dance floor earlier in the night? And wasn't this the group that wrote stoner classics like "Smoke Weed and Maintain," "Blaze It," and the succinctly titled "Weed Song"?

So why hadn't **Krayzie Bone**, **Layzie Bone**, **Wish Bone**, and **Flesh-n-Bone** partaken when they sang "Bud Smokers Only" earlier in the evening? Flesh-n-Bone — who's been in and out of jail (mostly in) since 2000 — had introduced it by asking where his weed smokers were at, in so many words. The band had sent it out with the poetic line *take a hit of the reefer, keep smokin'* sung in unison in a staccato rhythm. But no reefer. Finally it happened. "Y'all wanna get high with Bone Thugs-N-Harmony?" asked Layzie, the night's de facto emcee and Flesh-n-Bone's younger brother. It seemed we did. The band launched into "Bud dha Lover." The lights went down. The blunt appeared, and was passed from Wish (affable and upbeat) to Krayzie (drinking beer from cans all night long, quietly lingering toward the back of the stage) to Layzie to Flesh-n-Bone. It was a Bone Thugs reunion. All was right with the world.

Granted, the whole production wasn't as much of a novelty as most of us wanted it to be. The four Bones have been touring steadily since early 2010, including a 36-city club tour last spring and another 35 shows in the fall. In 2011 the gigs have been a bit more sporadic, but the group did manage to squeeze in eleven sold-out shows in Australia. By now the new arrangement must be old hat. So too is the seemingly incongruous fact that a Nineties hip-hop act is playing Yoshi's in the first place. The sister location of the revered Oakland jazz spot hosted **Public Enemy** in January and welcomes **Naughty By Nature**, **Doug E. Fresh**, and **De La Soul** in the coming weeks.

But there comes a time when one must stop worrying about whether a Grammy Award-winning gangsta rap act from Ohio is or isn't smoking weed in a San Francisco jazz club. We were there to listen. After all, Bone Thugs-N-Harmony made its name as one of the most musical rap groups of the Nineties. Many of Bone Thugs' best songs, including "Tha Crossroads," "1st of tha Month," and "Days of Our Livez," are marked by strong melodies, memorable choruses, fully fleshed-out instrumental accompaniment, and that trademark five-part harmonizing: sing-song rap parts layered over smoothly crooned singing parts.

All three songs made appearances Friday night. "Days," performed early in the set to much applause, was soulful and spot-on; "Tha Crossroads" felt a bit obligatory but was nonetheless appreciated; and "1st of the Month," part of the band's confusingly drawn-out encore (which included a raffle drawing for which no one seemed to have tickets), was a set highlight despite being essentially identical to the album version. We might've expected more, especially given the fact that the four Bones were backed by live musicians on drums, trumpet, keyboards, and synthesizer, but given the circumstances, good was good enough.

The ninety-minute set's other highlights included openers "East 1999" and "Eternal" — both from the band's 1995 breakout album *E. 1999 Eternal*, naturally — which benefitted immensely from live drums and an added horn part. Later, "Notorious Thugs" (first recorded with **Notorious B.I.G.** in 1997) and "No Surrender," a catchy, if violent, anti-cop screed from the 1994 EP *Creepin on ah Come Up*, ended the evening on a hard note.

Yet beyond these intermittent notables, the evening featured altogether too much hip-hop showbiz foolishness. On at least eight occasions, we were asked to prove, by the volume of our voices, that we were having a good time. Ladies and thugs (or hustlas, as the case may be) were called out on numerous occasions. The right, left, and center sections of the dancefloor were implored to compete in a yelling match. "Get yo muthafuckin hands in the air!" Layzie commanded more than once. *Somewhere* we'd heard this all before. Mid-set, the group invited about forty of those ubiquitous ladies onstage for a completely unnecessary montage of classic rap hits like "Boyz-n-the-Hood," "Juicy," and "California Love."

The fact that the guys seemed to be having so much fun during all this made it much easier to forgive. And their frequently expressed fan appreciation appeared genuine and heartfelt. "First of all, thanks for supporting us for eighteen years," Layzie Bone said at the conclusion of the montage. After the last song, he was back at the mic: "Hey San Francisco, you're one of our greatest markets that buys our CDs and shit." No one mistook his sentiment for anything but gratitude. ●

Nate.Seltenrich@EastBayExpress.com

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CD REVIEWS

# THE FIVE ELEMENTS

Bracing jazz, pop-punk background music, and healthful hip-hop.

## Steve Coleman and 5 Elements

Harvesting Semblances and Affinities

A cursory glance at the title quickly clarifies that this is not a **Jack McDuff** reissue. Iconoclastic jazz altoist/composer **Steve Coleman** clearly has no interest in affecting an easily accessible veneer, and why should he? While Coleman's music is layered and technically rigorous, it is also entirely too bright and propulsive to be dismissed as obscurantist.

*Harvesting Semblances and Affinities* just might be Coleman's strongest work yet, masterfully utilizing a talented sextet of the composer's closest musical allies. If the music breathes more easily than on previous Coleman efforts, credit drummer **Tyshawn Sorey**, who can make the densest metrical matrix feel persuasive and musical.

The opener "Attila 02 (Dawning)" arrives in bracing fashion, with Coleman's brisk ascending rue-phrase knitting a coiled groove, insistent horn chords, and a soaring vocal melody. The group proceeds to run the thematic material through several tempo options, with solo statements emerging and probing the composed material.

The wordless vocalizing of **Jen Shyu** is a particularly striking element. On the gorgeous "Flos Ut Rosa Floruit," she provides a solid center amidst a thicket of surging horn lines. Coleman brilliantly integrates Shyu with his instrumentalists, underlining the equality of roles with many instances of Shyu comping and providing backgrounds for horn soloists.

Coleman is not particularly interested in standard soloist and rhythm section archetypes, and moments wherein the entire ensemble is not involved are relatively rare. While this approach can result in listener fatigue, there are enough moments of textural respite, such as the sparse trumpet/bass introduction to the lovely "Clouds," to make this album a solid success. (Pi Recordings)

*—Nathan Clevenger*

At Oakland Yoshi's (510 Embarcadero, Oakland) on Thursday, Mar. 17, 8 p.m. & 10 p.m. $10-$22. Yoshis.com

## La Sera

La Sera

Say you love good melodies, classic pop harmonies, and ethereal female vocals. And say the modern world has so blunted your attention span that if a song can't speak to you in three minutes, it's no good. Hell, let's go out on a limb and say you have at least one song by **She & Him** and another by **Fleetwood Mac** at your disposal this very moment. In short, say you're one of thousands of artistic, fashionable, technologically enabled, well-meaning young people in the Bay Area. Then you're bound to like **La Sera**. You may even love it — but only if you can look past the fact that the songs aren't that great.

The band is the vehicle of one **Katy Goodman**, bassist for Brooklyn pop-punk trio **Vivian Girls**. She's also played with **Gregg Foreman** of **Delta 72** and **Cat Power** in dream pop band **All Saints Day**. La Sera provides an outlet for Goodman to express her soft side, and that she does. Blending nicely rudimentary bass playing with early-Sixties pop guitar and rock drumming and multi-layered vocal choruses — ever-longing wistfulness cranked to max — Goodman delivers nostalgic style in spades. But substance is sorely lacking; might as well rip "Beating Heart" and "Never Come Around" to your phone and save the rest for background noise at your next party. (Hardly Art)

*—Nate Seltenrich*

## Zion-I and The Grouch

Heroes in the Healing of the Nation

Cheddar, gouda and grapes aside, nobody listens to hip-hop for diet advice. And yet here it comes, six songs into *Heroes in the Healing of the Nation*: *Say you can be unhealthy off soy/ if its GMOed out or fried to enjoy.*

The entirety of the album's ambition — and, ultimately, its downfall — can more or less be encapsulated in that line: It's certainly well-meaning, and a cursory Wikipedia search indicates that it may very well be accurate from a health perspective. But hedonistic recklessness and wanton consumption are, rightly or wrongly, among hip-hop's greatest pleasures. Both The **Grouch** and **Zion-I** have commendably made a mission out of changing that on 2006's *Heroes in the City of Dope* and now *Nation*. But where *City of Dope* offered a sense of self-awareness and a fresh perspective at the height of the East Bay's bombast-soaked hyphy moment, *Nation* feels heavy-handed and humorless. There's a sort of throwing-the-baby-out-with-the-bathwater thing happening here, a stronger focus on the message at the expense of the medium. Light-hearted game-spitting is replaced by preachy one-upmanship about who's a more responsible consumer on the aforementioned "I Used to Be a Vegan." Vibraphone legend **Roy Ayers** is a welcome guest on "How to Be a Father" — until he launches into a treatise about engaged parenting. *Heroes* is admirable as a progressive statement, and it's more than decent as a piece of production. It's just not much fun. (Z&G Music)

HEROES
ATIO

*— Ellen Cushing*

At The Fillmore (1805 Geary Blvd., San Francisco) Saturday, Mar. 19, 8 p.m. $25. LiveNation.com

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### Death Valley High

Doom In Full Bloom

Nostalgia for the Nineties is the element that drives **Death Valley High**. Most songs on its current LP are propelled by long, ululating vocal howls and the primal crunch of electric guitars. The band's cover of Katy Perry's "I Kissed a Girl" transforms the flirty pop song into freewheeling punk rock rage. The odd-metered tune "She Wants to Kill" comes in two iterations — the remix sounds like techno. (Minus Head Records)

### Afromassive

Grid Lock

Were it not for the Broadway musical, San Francisco might have become a destination location for acolytes of **Fela Kuti**. We already have enough Fela tribute bands to form a veritable subculture, from **Albino!** to **DJ Jeremiah and the Afrobeat Nation**. Nine-piece jam band **Afromassive** is the latest addition, led by Albino! bassist **Aaron Bortz** and guitarist **Greg Camphius**, with help from the **Humboldt State University** percussion department. Afrobeat influences are clear, though they're often overpowered by the Humboldt jam. (self-released)

### Grand Lake

Leaves Eclipse

Ex-**Port O'Brien** member **Caleb Nichols** is a revivalist in the purist sense, even if some of his Sixties-style flourishes might be abetted by modern technology. "Christmas California" is as sweet as an Otter Pop, bolstered by falsetto harmonies and beachy guitar chords. "Which Days Were Those Days" is a ballad with masochistic lyrics. (Hippies Are Dead)

At Amnesia (853 Valencia St., San Francisco) on Sunday, Mar. 20, 9 p.m.

### Lecherous Gaze

Lecherous Gaze EP

Though it's actually a quartet, Lecherous Gaze has the taut sound of a power trio. The songs on its new EP are fast and riff-based, with sharp, dry guitars. Drummer **Noel Sullivan** doesn't so much play as flog his trapset. Singer **Lakis Panagiotopoulos** bellows in a hard rock baritone. (Tee Pee Records)

At Bottom of the Hill (1233 17th St., San Francisco) on Saturday, Mar. 12, 10 p.m. $10-$12.

Bay Area bands: show us what you've got. Send CDs to Local Licks c/o the *East Bay Express*.

# CONCERTS & CLUBS

## ON SALE THIS WEEK

**[illegible]** with [illegible] and New York Cafe. Tickets on sale Thursday, Mar. 17 at 11 a.m. Wed., June 15, 7 p.m., $80. Bill Graham Civic Auditorium, 99 Grove St.
**[illegible] at the [illegible]** Tickets go on sale Sunday, Mar. 20 at 11 a.m., Wed., June 22, 7:30 p.m., $35-$38. The Warfield, 982 Market St.

## THURSDAY 17

## EAST BAY

### Blues, Folk & Country

**[illegible]** with [illegible] and [illegible] [illegible], Freight & Salvage Coffeehouse, 8 p.m., $22.50, $24.50
**[illegible]** with Music Cave [illegible], 7-9 p.m., free
**[illegible] Music Jam** [illegible], & originals, P.A. w/ mics & stool set provided. [illegible] Art, 6:30 p.m., $5
**[illegible] All Stars** with [illegible] and [illegible]. Blue House Live, 7 p.m.

### Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

**[illegible]** [illegible] jazz with guest [illegible]. The Alley, 9 p.m., free
**Steve Coleman [illegible] Five [illegible] March 17 2011** Yoshi's, 8 & 10 p.m., $18, $22
**Thursday Night Jazz [illegible] by [illegible]** 57th Street Gallery, 6:30 p.m.

### Rock & Pop

**[illegible]** with [illegible], Time [illegible]. Bar & Patio, 8 p.m., $6
**As I Lay Dying** with [illegible] and [illegible] After The Burial. [illegible] Opera House, [illegible] p.m., $18
**[illegible]** [illegible] of classics. [illegible] [illegible]'s Restaurant, 8 p.m., free
**[illegible]** with New Earth [illegible], Blue [illegible] and Jake Allen. [illegible] Club, 8 p.m., $5
**The [illegible]** [illegible]'s Irish Sports Bar, 10 p.m., free
**[illegible]** with [illegible] and [illegible]. [illegible]'s Roadhouse, 8 p.m., $8

### Soul, Funk, R&B & Hip-Hop

**[illegible] Entertainment Presents The Oakland Lyricist Lounge** with special [illegible], The [illegible], plus [illegible]

Lafat, [illegible], [illegible]. C.I.A. Jazz [illegible], [illegible], [illegible], [illegible], The Different [illegible], [illegible] Mountains, [illegible]. [illegible] by [illegible], Live Painting by [illegible]. [illegible], La Peña Cultural Center, 7:30 p.m., $8-[illegible] 9 p.m., $10 [illegible]

### World, Latin, Reggae & Reggaetón

**Anthony B** with special guests. The New Parish, 10 p.m., $25
**Sister [illegible] with [illegible] Dub Squad** Ashkenaz, 9 p.m., $15

## SAN FRANCISCO

### Blues, Folk & Country

**[illegible]'s Hounds** with The [illegible] and The [illegible]. [illegible] Music Hall, 8 p.m., $20
**La [illegible]** with The, The Ardia Lofton Project, [illegible] Farm, [illegible]. Café du Nord, 9 p.m., $10
**[illegible] Music** Johnny Foley's Irish House, 8 p.m., free

### Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

**[illegible] Trio** live jazz, [illegible], 7:30-11 p.m., free
**[illegible]** classics, songs and [illegible] of pop-culture figures in [illegible] White [illegible] around the world in search of Prince Charming. Club Fugazi, 8 p.m., $25-$77
**[illegible]** w/ guests. Yoshi's San Francisco, 8 p.m., free
**George [illegible]** [illegible] classics, 8:30 p.m.
**[illegible] Presents [illegible]** Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, 7:30 p.m., $30, $50
**The [illegible]** Le Colonial, 7:30 p.m., free
**Zydeco [illegible]** San Francisco-based [illegible] [illegible] live [illegible]. Top of the Mark, 7:30-11:30 p.m., $10

### Rock & Pop

**[illegible] & The [illegible]** plus Yoshi performing a tribute to [illegible] and [illegible]. [illegible] Market [illegible] Lounge, 8 p.m., $6
**The Ex** with [illegible] and [illegible]. [illegible] of the Hill, 8 p.m., $15
**Johnny Z & the [illegible]** [illegible] donations

Fujiya & Miyagi play The Independent on Monday 3/21

play rock, country & R&B. Gold Coast Lounge, 8:30 p.m.-1:30 a.m., free
**[illegible]** with [illegible] Tooth, [illegible], and [illegible]. [illegible], 8 p.m., $5

### Soul, Funk, R&B & Hip-Hop

**[illegible]** [illegible] San Francisco, March 17-18, 8 & 10 p.m., $20-$30

### World, Latin, Reggae & Reggaetón

**Flamenco Thursdays** traditional music & dancing with [illegible] & Stephanie [illegible], [illegible] Performance, 8 p.m., $12
**[illegible] and [illegible]** Red Poppy Art House, 7 p.m., $10-$15

## FRIDAY 18

## EAST BAY

### Blues, Folk & Country

**Andre Thierry and Zydeco Magic** Plus a dance lesson w/ [illegible] at 8:30 p.m., [illegible] Hall, 8 p.m., $15
**[illegible]** with [illegible], Freight & Salvage Coffeehouse, 8 p.m., $20.50, $22.50
**[illegible], [illegible], [illegible]** [illegible] Cafe, 7-9 p.m., donations accepted

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### Classical & Opera

**[illegible] plays [illegible] of Purcell** St. Mark's Episcopal Church, 6 p.m., $10-$15
**[illegible] Presents Beethoven's Missa Solemnis** with [illegible], [illegible] Clayton, Magan [illegible], Thomas [illegible] and Austin Kness. Allen Temple Baptist Church Family Life Center, 7:30 p.m., free
**[illegible] East Bay Symphony [illegible]** Music by composers [illegible] and [illegible], plus Beethoven's Triple Concerto for Piano, Violin, Cello and Orchestra, performed by [illegible], [illegible] and [illegible]. Paramount [illegible], 8 p.m., $20-$65

### Gospel & Vocal

**[illegible]** Gospel showcase plus rap, drama, [illegible], & more. Bay Area Christian Connection, 7 p.m., free

### Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

**[illegible]** Sacramento Arthouse, 8-10:30 p.m., $5-$10
**The [illegible] Jazz Trio** Spasso Kensington, 8:30 p.m., free

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| THUR [illegible] Free | JUNGLE BOOGIE<br>DJ POIZEN, KOOL KYLE, MAX KANE W ROCK & DJ CRIMSON<br>[illegible] hip hop, dancehall & party classics |
| FRI 10pm [illegible] | FLASHBACK FRIDAYS<br>OAKLAND FADER DJ MERK<br>[illegible] hip hop & all things funky |
| SAT 10pm [illegible] | SMOOVE SATURDAYS<br>DJ JAMO & FUZE<br>hip hop, [illegible] & world flavors |
| SUN [illegible] | FRESH STEPS<br>LIVE LOCAL EMCEES PERFORM<br>[illegible] |
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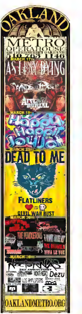

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# PICKS

## Dwele

Detroit soul artist **Dwele** has more in common with Sixties balladeer **Marvin Gaye** than with most of his contemporaries. Like Gaye, Dwele is both a crooner and a singer of protest music. He specializes in love songs, but also fixates on the deterioration of urban life. And his songs have real musicianship: [illegible] organs and gospel chord changes, even when the lyrics focus on secular themes. Last year's hit single "What's Not to Love," is a prime example. It opens with the soft trill of a Fender Rhodes, as horns swell and snare drums patter in the background. Dwele sings light-heartedly about a woman who is more substance than surface — a relatively rare theme for contemporary pop music. It's an apt lead-in for his album *Wants, World, Women*, which is structured as a triptych. The first part is solipsistic, the second altruistic, the third libidinous. But that's Dwele for you. At San Francisco **Yoshi's** (1330 Fillmore St., San Francisco), Thursday through Saturday, Mar. 17-19, 8 & 10 p.m., $26-$30. Yoshis.com *— Rachel Swan*

## Flogging Molly

**Flogging Molly**'s blistering mash-up of traditional Irish music and punk thrash wrings every bit of energy and emotion out of a crowd. Bandleader and main songwriter **Dave King** composes his incendiary lyrics on a typewriter that was made in 1916, the year of the Easter Rising. Thus, it's no accident that the spirit of Irish pride and rebellion resonates throughout the band's sweat-inducing repertoire. Its blend of acoustic and electric instruments keeps the music rooted in tradition while giving it a contemporary twist. The band's annual month-long celebration of Saint Patrick's Day will provide an evening of rowdy rebel rousing for all. At **The Fox Theater** (1807 Telegraph, Oakland) on Saturday, Mar. 19, 7:30 p.m., $29.50. TheFoxOakland.com *— J. Poet*

## Magnificat

In an area rich with early music ensembles, the excellent Baroque ensemble **Magnificat** continues to stand out. This week, they reunite with the actors of the **Dell'Arte Company** to present **Orazio Vecchi**'s satirical madrigal comedy *L'Amfiparnaso* ("The Twin Peaks of Parnassus"). The performance, brightly costumed and over-the-top in the commedia dell'arte tradition, satirizes human foibles in this tale of love and youthful rebellion. At **St. Mark's Episcopal Church** (2300 Bancroft Way, Berkeley) on Saturday, **Mar. 19, 8 p.m.**, $35, $28 seniors, $12 students. 800-595-4849 or MagnificatBaroque.org. *— Jason Victor Serinus*

## Marnie Stern

In the very male-dominated world of guitar shredding, **Marnie Stern** has been making her mark as quite the six-string queen. But unlike fellow female brethren whose influences run towards neo-classical thrash (**The Great Kat**) or straightforward hard rock (**Lita Ford**), Stern's musical inspirations run the gamut, from **Deerhoof** and **Sleater-Kinney** to **King Crimson** and **Talking Heads**. On the New York City native's 2010 self-titled third album, she lands at the crossroads of math rock and bubble-gum pop via reams of layered riffing, keening vocals, and enough finger-tapping to give **Eddie Van Halen** a case of terminal perma-grin. Stern will be celebrating her 38th birthday sharing a bill with co-headliner **Tera Melos** and prog-rockers **Amaranth**, featuring a couple of buddies from **Hella**. All this axe-wielding will be going down on Friday, Mar. 18 at **Bottom of the Hill** (1233 17th St., San Francisco). 10 p.m., $12. BottomoftheHill.com *— Dave Gil de Rubio*

Marnie Stern

# C&C

**[illegible]** Jazzschool, 8 pm, $15
**Paulito FG Y Su Elite** Yoshi's, March 18-19, 8 & 10 pm, $20-$70
**[illegible]** [illegible] The Alley, 9 pm, free
**[illegible]** Jupiter, 9 pm, free

### Rock & Pop

**[illegible]** piano covers of [illegible], jazz, 8 pm, [illegible] Restaurant, 5 pm, free
**[illegible]** with [illegible]. The [illegible], 9 pm, $5
**[illegible]** with [illegible]. 9 pm.
**[illegible]** with [illegible], [illegible] Club, 9 pm, $5
**Rockets** with [illegible], Blue Rebels, Square Atomic, and Atomic Machines. 924 Gilman, 8 pm, $6
**Rugby** Red House Live, 8 pm
**[illegible]** with [illegible], [illegible] Lou, 9 pm, $10

### World, Latin, Reggae & Reggaeton

**[illegible]**, live flamenco guitar. [illegible] on Solano, 7:30 pm, free

**[illegible]** The Jazz, 8 pm, free
**[illegible]** with [illegible] and [illegible], plus an Argentine tango lesson with Andrea Fuchilieri at 8:00 p.m. Ashkenaz, 9 pm, $15

More Listings Online
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## SAN FRANCISCO

### Blues, Folk & Country

**Amnesty International Benefit** [illegible] with Chad Sisken, Steve Earle, [illegible], and [illegible], 5 pm, $40
**"Bluegrass Sundays"** [illegible] bluegrass bands, Plough and Stars, 9 pm, $6-$10 sliding scale
**[illegible]** Red Poppy Art House, 8 pm, $8-$12
**Punch Brothers** featuring Chris Thile and [illegible], Great American Music Hall, 8 pm, $20

### Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

**[illegible]** [illegible], 8-11:30 pm, free
**Beach Blanket Babylon** musical revue and spoof of pop-culture figures in which Snow White travels around the world in search of Prince Charming. Club Fugazi, 9 pm, $25-$77
**[illegible]** Top of the Mark, 9 pm, $10
**[illegible]** [illegible] Records, 5:30-8 pm, free

**[illegible]** w/ guests, Yoshi's San Francisco, 6-8 pm, free
**[illegible]** [illegible], 8:30 pm
**SFJAZZ members [illegible]** with [illegible] Goldberg, [illegible], Charlie Hunter & [illegible] Amendola, plus a pre-concert talk, Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, 8 pm, $10-$35
**[illegible]** Castillo Hotel, 12:30 pm, free

### Rock & Pop

**[illegible]** with [illegible], The Warfield, 9 pm, $41.75-$59.75
**Out of State Record Showcase** with [illegible] and [illegible], [illegible], 9 pm, $12-$15
**The [illegible]** with Coconut and Mist and [illegible], 9:30 pm, $8
**In the Name of Love: A Fundraiser for Those Affected by the Quakes and Tsunami in Japan** [illegible] Red Devil Lounge, 9 pm, $10
**Johnny 2 & the Gamers** [illegible], country & R&B. Gold Dust Lounge, 8:30 pm-1:30 am, free
**Marnie Stern** with Tera Melos and Amaranth, Bottom of the Hill, 10 pm, $12
**The [illegible]** The Independent, 8 pm, $22
**[illegible]** The Fillmore, 9 pm, $31
**[illegible]** with [illegible] and [illegible], Slim's, 8 pm, $13

### Soul, Funk, R&B & Hip-Hop

**[illegible]** Yoshi's San Francisco, 8 & 10 pm, $28-$30
**The [illegible]** with [illegible], [illegible], DJ [illegible], and [illegible], 10 pm, $10-$15

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**Air Bar & Lounge** 492 3rd St., [illegible] Oakland 510-444-2321
**Albatross Pub** 1822 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley 510-843-2473, AlbatrossPub.com
**The Alley** 3325 Grand Ave., Oakland, 510-444-8505.
**Amoeba Music** 2455 Telegraph Ave. Berkeley 510-549-1125.
**Armando's** 707 Marina Vista Ave. Martinez, 925-228-8935
**Art House Gallery & Cultural Center** 2905 Shattuck Ave. Berkeley 510-472-3170
**Ashkenaz** 1317 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley 510-525-5054
**The Avenue** 135 Park Pl., Point Richmond 510-236-1000
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**Club 21** 2111 Franklin St. Oakland 510-268-9425
**[illegible]** 428 3rd St., Oakland 510-465-0165
**[illegible]** 3383 [illegible] Ave., Oakland 510-465-4724
**[illegible]** 5422 College Ave., Oakland 510-653-2681
**[illegible] Irish Sports Bar** 1524 Civic Dr., Walnut Creek, 925-932-1220.
**[illegible]** 341 14th St. Oakland 510-893-7211
**Eagles Hall** 2305 [illegible] Ave., Alameda, 415-285-0285.
**Easy Lounge** 3255 Lakeshore Ave Oakland 510-338-4911
**Era Art Bar and Lounge** 19 Grand Ave Oakland [illegible]-4400
**Everett & Jones Barbeque** 126 Broadway, Oakland 510-663-2350
**First Congregational Church** 2345 Channing Way Berkeley 510-848-3696.
**First Presbyterian Church** 2619 Broadway, Oakland 510-444-3555.
**Fox Theater** 1807 Telegraph Ave., Oakland. TheFoxOakland.com
**[illegible]** 111 W. [illegible] St. Hayward 510-733-1100
**Freight & Salvage** 2020 Addison St., Berkeley 510-644-2020
**Hertz Hall** UC Berkeley (Bancroft Way at College Ave.), Berkeley 510-642-9988.
**High Street Station** 1303 High St., Alameda 510-995-8049.
**Island Paradise Club** 1424 [illegible] St., Alameda 510-865-1225
**Jazzschool** 2087 Addison St. Berkeley 510-845-5373
**Jewish Community Center of the East Bay** 1414 Walnut St., Berkeley 510-848-0237
**John Patrick's** 1013 Park St., Alameda, 510-522-5155
**[illegible]** 1285 Park St. Alameda, 510-865-2385
**Jupiter** 2181 Shattuck Ave. Berkeley 510-843-8277
**[illegible]** 1408 [illegible] St. [illegible] 510-238-0202
**[illegible]** 522 2nd St., Oakland 510-444-6401
**King Tsin Chinese Restaurant** 1699 Solano Ave. Berkeley
**Kingman's Lucky Lounge** 3332 Grand Ave. Oakland 510-465-5464
**Kingman's Ivy Room** 858 San Pablo Ave., Albany 510-526-5888.
**Kitty's** 6702 Hollis St., Emeryville 510-[illegible]
**La Peña Cultural Center** 3105 Shattuck Ave. Berkeley, 510-849-2568.
**Lake Merritt United Methodist Church** 1330 Lakeshore Ave Oakland 510-465-4793
**Lakeshore Baptist Church** 3534 Lakeshore Ave. Oakland 510-893-2484
**The Layover** 1517 Franklin St., Oakland 510-834-1517
**Lost Weekend Lounge** 2320 Santa Clara Ave. Alameda 510-523-4700.
**Lounge 3411** 3411 MacArthur Blvd Oakland
**Luka's Taproom & Lounge** 2221 Broadway, Oakland 510-451-4677.
**[illegible] Sports Bar & Grill** 1720 N. Main St. Walnut Creek 925-256-7080
**[illegible] Lounge** 348 13th St. Oakland 510-839-8169
**Mills College** 5000 MacArthur Blvd Oakland 510-430-2296
**[illegible]** 1600 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley 510-548-2008.
**The New Parish** 579 18th St., Oakland TheNewParish.com
**[illegible] Club** 6550 [illegible] Ave., San [illegible] 510-276-5344
**Oakland City [illegible]** 1000 12th St., Oakland 510-238-[illegible]
**Oakland Metro Operahouse** 630 3rd St. Oakland 510-763-1146.
**ORACLE Arena** 7000 Coliseum Way, Oakland 510-569-2121
**[illegible] Lounge** 2272 Telegraph Ave., Oakland 510-835-9085
**Paramount Theatre** 2025 Broadway, Oakland 510-465-6400
**[illegible]** 579 [illegible] St. Oakland, 510-444-9834
**[illegible] Restaurant** [illegible] Lafayette Cir. Lafayette 925-284-[illegible]
**Quinn's Lighthouse** 1951 Embarcadero Cove Oakland 510-536-2050
**Radio** 435 13th St. Oakland
**Rhythmix Cultural Works** 2513 Blanding Ave. Alameda 510-865-5060
**[illegible] Saloon** 3553 Mt. Diablo Blvd. Lafayette [illegible]
**[illegible]** 3300 [illegible] Ave. Alameda [illegible]
**Ruby Room** 132 14th St., Oakland 510-444-7224
**Saddle Rack** 42011 Boscell Rd Fremont 510-979-0477
**Shattuck Down Low** 2284 Shattuck Ave Berkeley 510-548-1159
**[illegible] Nightclub** 2451 San Ramon Valley Blvd. #130 San Ramon
**Shoreline Amphitheatre** One Amphitheatre Pkwy Mountain View, 650-967-3000
**Speisekammer** 2424 Lincoln Ave., Alameda 510-522-1300
**Spoontonic Lounge** 2580 N Main St., Walnut Creek, 925-977-1088
**St. Mark's Episcopal Church** 2300 Bancroft Way Berkeley 510-848-5107
**St. John's Presbyterian Church** 2727 College Ave. Berkeley 510-845-6830
**Starry Plough** 3101 Shattuck Ave. Berkeley, 510-841-2082
**Stork Club** 2330 Telegraph Ave. Oakland 510-444-6174
**Studio 1510** 1510 [illegible] Oakland
**Subterranean Art House** 2179 Bancroft Way Berkeley 510-982-1381
**Sweet Fingers** 464 E. 14th St., San Leandro 510-553-8888
**[illegible]** [illegible] Telegraph Ave., Berkeley 510-654-8000
**[illegible] Bar & Grill** 2945 Mt. Diablo St. Concord 925-685-9515
**Wente Vineyards Restaurant** 5050 Arroyo Rd. Livermore 925-456-2450.
**[illegible]** UC Berkeley, Berkeley 510-642-4298
**White Horse Bar** 6551 Telegraph Ave., Oakland 510-652-3820
**Yoshi's** 510 Embarcadero West, Oakland 510-238-9200
**Zza's Trattoria** 552 Grand Ave. Oakland 510-839-9124

### SAN FRANCISCO

**222 Club** 222 Hyde St. 415-440-0222.
**330 Ritch** 330 Ritch St. 415-541-9574.
**Amnesia** 853 Valencia St., 415-970-0012
**Amoeba Music** 1855 Haight St., 415-831-1200
**[illegible]** [illegible] St., 415-471-3070
**[illegible] Bar & Lounge** 1 Tillman Pl., 415-362-7100
**Bacar Restaurant and Wine Salon** 448 Brannan St. 415-904-4100
**Bazaar Cafe** 5927 California St. 415-831-5620
**Beach Chalet** 1000 Great Highway 415-386-8439
**[illegible] Bar** [illegible] Mission St., 415-285-0323
**Bimbo's 365 Club** 1025 Columbus Ave. 415-474-0365
**Biscuits & Blues** 401 Mason St. 415-292-2583
**Bottom of the Hill** 1233 17th St., 415-621-4455
**[illegible]** 3380 [illegible] St. 415-683-5230
**Cafe du Nord** 2170 Market St. 415-861-5016
**Club [illegible]** [illegible] Haight St. 415-558-[illegible]
**Caffe Trieste** 609 Vallejo St. 415-982-2605
**Cat Club** 1190 Folsom St., 415-431-3332
**The Cellar** 685 Sutter St., 415-441-5678
**[illegible]** 285 [illegible] St. 415-28[illegible]
**Club Fugazi** 678 Green St., 415-421-4222
**Club Six** 60 Sixth St. 415-863-1221
**Davies Symphony Hall** 201 Van Ness Ave. 415-864-6000.
**[illegible]** 2801 Leavenworth St. 415-775-[illegible]
**DNA Lounge** 375 11th St., 415-626-1409
**Dogpatch Saloon** 2496 3rd St., 415-643-8592
**The Eagle Tavern** 398 12th St., 415-626-0880
**Edinburgh Castle** 950 Geary St., 415-885-4074
**El [illegible]** [illegible] 16th St., 415-437-[illegible]
**El Rio** 3158 Mission St., 415-282-3325.
**Elbo Room** 647 Valencia St., 415-552-7788.
**[illegible] Lounge** [illegible] Geary St. 415-[illegible]
**The EndUp** 401 6th St., 415-646-0999
**The Fillmore** 1805 Geary Blvd. 415-346-6000
**[illegible]** [illegible] 4th St., 415-[illegible]
**Great American Music Hall** 859 O'Farrell St. 415-885-0750
**Hemlock Tavern** 1131 Polk St., 415-923-0923
**Herbst Theatre** 401 Van Ness Ave. 415-392-4400
**Hotel Utah** 500 4th St. 415-546-6300
**The Independent** 628 Divisadero St. 415-771-1421
**Ireland's 32 Bar & Grill** 3920 Geary Blvd. 415-386-6173
**Jazz at Pearl's** 256 Columbus Ave. 415-291-8255
**Johnny Foley's Irish House** 243 O'Farrell St. 415-954-0777
**The Knockout** 3223 Mission St. 415-550-6994
**[illegible]** 1710 Mission St. 415-864-5585.
**Madrone Lounge** 500 Divisadero St. 415-241-0202.
**Make-Out Room** 3225 22nd St., 415-647-2888.
**Mezzanine** 444 Jessie St., 415-625-8880
**The [illegible]** [illegible]
**Noe Valley Ministry** 1021 Sanchez St., 415-454-5238
**Park Chalet** 1000 Great Highway 415-386-8439
**Peña Pachamama** 1630 Powell St., 415-646-0018
**Pier 23** The Embarcadero, 415-[illegible]
**[illegible] Lounge** 1695 Polk St., 415-921-1695
**The Regency Ballroom** 1290 Van Ness Ave. TheRegencyBallroom.com
**Retox Lounge** 628 20th St. 415-626-1386
**Rickshaw Stop** 155 Fell St., 415-861-2011
**Rockit Room** 406 Clement St. 415-387-6344
**Ruby Skye** 420 Mason St.
**San Francisco Conservatory of Music** 50 Oak St. 415-503-6275
**Skip's Tavern** 453 Cortland Ave 415-282-9456
**Skylark** 3089 16th St. 415-621-9294.
**Slim's** 333 11th St. 415-522-0333.
**Space 550** 550 Barneveld Ave. 415-550-8286.
**[illegible]** 399 9th St., 415-[illegible]
**Sub/Mission Gallery** 2183 Mission St., 415-255-7227
**Supperclub** 657 Harrison St., 415-348-0900.
**Swig Bar** 561 Geary St. 415-931-7292
**Temple** 540 Howard St.
**Thee Parkside** 1600 17th St., 415-[illegible]
**Top of the Mark** 1 Nob Hill, 999 California St. 415-616-6916
**[illegible]** [illegible] Sixth St., 415-[illegible]
**Velvet Lounge** 443 Broadway St., 415-788-0228.
**The [illegible]** [illegible] Market St. 415-775-7722
**[illegible] Restaurant and Lounge** [illegible] St. 415-[illegible]
**Yoshi's San Francisco** 1330 Fillmore St., 415-655-5600

# C&C

### World, Latin, Reggae & Reggaeton

**Bruce Mosaset** with Michael Musika (of Afrobeat) and Tasline Keane, Rainbow Stop. 8:30 pm, $12

## SATURDAY 19

## EAST BAY

### Blues, Folk & Country

**Under the Covers** with Melissa Phillips (covering Tom Petty), Davis Jones (covering Neil Young), and Kate Schmid (covering Lucinda Williams). The Berkeley Art House and Cultural Center, 8 & 10:30 pm, $10

**Wasso** Freight & Salvage Coffeehouse. 8 pm, $22.50-$24.50

**Word Wilbrand** Marin Jive Cafe, 7-8 pm, donations (dancing)

### Classical & Opera

**Cantare Con Vivo Presents Beethoven's** *Missa Solemnis* with soloists Kristin Clayton, Megan Stark, Brennan Blank and Austin Kness. Proceeds Benefit Allen Temple After-School Music Program. Skyline Presbyterian Church, 7:30 pm, $10-$35, $40

### Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

**[illegible]** Price Coffee, 4:30-6 pm, free

**Burlesque Obama and Red Hots Burlesque Present: Under The Sea!** with Alotta Boutte, Dottie Lux, Mistress of Ceremonies, Honey Pepper, Isabella Coeur de Mer, Ocean of Cinema, Bacon Top, Twilight Vixen Revue, Sh! and Her Ukulele (musical guest). Shattuck Down Low. 7:30 pm, $10 or $7 for Fauxts with valid ID

**Citizens Quartet** Jupiter, 8 pm, free

**The Obama Mix of Jazz, Soul, & Comedy** with Calimenya Elgin, 8 pm, $15-$25, includes free food

**Janam** Subterranean Arthouse, 8 pm, $8-10

**Jazz B Joy** Taste of Joy, 5:30 pm, free

**Lesa Sanders** Luka's Taproom, 9 pm, $15

**Paulie Hi T Sa Girls** Yoshi's, 8 & 10 pm, $20, $29

**Red Dubmel** Group Jazz with Bettie Obama Singers, The Alley, 9 pm, free

### Kids

**Los Angelitos de La Peña** Saturday morning children's show w/ live music. La Peña Cultural Center, 10:30 am, $5, kids $4

### Rock & Pop

**Dusk Bentley** piano covers of Quartet oldies, jazz, & pop. Pete's Restaurant, 8 pm, free

**Flogging Molly** Fox Oakland. 7:30 pm, $29.50

**Flogging Molly** with Moneybrother and The Drowning Men. Fox Oakland. 7:30 pm, $29.50 (sold out)

**Girls Rock After School Program (GRASP) Showcase** Malonga Casquelourd Center for the Arts, 1:30 pm, $10

**Obama Gossip!** with Slave Unit, My Bloodshed Fifth, Malladaun, and Buried At Birth. Stork Club, 7 pm, $10

**The Phenomenauts! With Arnocorps** with Sharp Objects and Bobby Joe Ebola & the Children Macnuggits. Ashkenaz, 9 pm

**Wonderland Syndrome**, with Heavy Liquid, House Of Claude and Ventura, Stork Club, 9 pm, $5

### Soul, Funk, R&B & Hip-Hop

**Al Moolya / The Music** with DJ Ensemble and Tay Blue. La Peña Cultural Center, 9 pm, $8-$10

### World, Latin, Reggae & Reggaeton

**Jaman** Subterranean Arthouse, 8:30 pm, $10-$20

Celie Curtis plays Freight & Salvage on Friday 3/18

Tony Rahor

Ashkenaz
Music & Dance Community Center

WED 3/16 8:30 pm $12 $10 students — SOUL FUNK R&B — SOUL POWER featuring the Eastside Horns!
THU 3/17 9:00 pm $15 — REGGAE — SISTER CAROL with YELLOW WALL DUB SQUAD
FRI 3/18 9:30 pm $15 — ARGENTINE TANGO & CUMBIA — TRIO GARUFA, MARIA VOLONTE, URUBAHBA — 8:00 pm Argentine Tango dance lesson
SAT 3/19 9:00 pm $12 $10 advance — SCI-FI ROCKET ROLL PUNK — THE PHENOMENAUTS, ARNOCORPS, SHARP OBJECTS, BOBBY JOE EBOLA & THE CHILDREN MACNUGGITS
SUN 3/20 5:30 pm $10 — PURIM PARTY — PURIMANIA! featuring SambaDá, Ya Rock, DJs Weird Bagel and (illegal) — Costume contest – wear anything!
TUE 3/22 8:30 pm $10 — CAJUN ZYDECO — CZ & THE BON VIVANTS — 8:00 pm Cajun/Zydeco dance lesson
WED 3/23 8:30 pm $10 — BALKAN GREEK — THE HELLADELICS with special guests KEN McCORMICK and MWE — 7:30 pm Greek dance lesson
THU 3/24 8:00 pm $10 — SQUARE DANCE — BALL & CHAIN with members of Stairwell Sisters, Black Crown Stringband & more, calling by PAUL SILVERIA

3/25 LOS ROLEROS — 3/26 PREZIDENT BROWN
3/30 JULIE FEENEY + LUCY SCHWARTZ
4/1 MAGNOLIA SISTERS — 4/3 FRONT STREET

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SELECTOR: DJ DIET — THUR 3/17
8 pm One of the Audio Catering Experts, DJ Diet (Stronghold Sound) goes it solo and will be serving up St Patricks Day-goodness, with a Antipine International blend of funk, disco-house and electronic music. Diet prides himself on his diverse selection, experienced scratching and his ability to get people to dance to songs they've never heard before.
www.soundcloud.com/dj-diet
www.strongholdsound.com

TERRENCE BREWER TRIO — FRI 3/18
8 pm Guitarist Terrence Brewer continues to ride a wave of both regional and national acclaim for his all original albums The Calling (2006) and QuintEssential (2008). Brewer is set to light up the jazz scene once again with Groove Was, music written and popularized by one of jazz guitar's greatest hero, Wes Montgomery, which will be on display this evening.
www.terrencebrewer.com

CITIZENS QUARTET — SAT 3/19
8 pm The Citizens Quartet is a new jazz group based in San Francisco featuring Caroline Chung on upright bass. Their style is based on the sultry, vintage, speakeasy sounds of Billie Holiday (tunes of the 30's & 40's) while intermixing other originals and bossa nova numbers. By fusing elements of the past with vibrant influences from today, Citizens Quartet is bringing a new energy and pulse to San Francisco's live jazz scene.
www.myspace.com/citizensquartet

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ABRUPT
PUNK FUNK MOB

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VENTURA

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APRIL 8

JOHN MELLENCAMP
APRIL 9 (SOLD OUT) & 10

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APRIL 12

BROKEN SOCIAL SCENE
APRIL 13

SCISSOR SISTERS
APRIL 15

ALL TIME LOW
YELLOWCARD
HEY MONDAY · THE SUMMER SET
APRIL 16

CYPRESS HILL
4/20

JAMES BLUNT
CHRISTINA PERRI
MAY 5

BUD LIGHT
ticketmaster

# C&C

## SAN FRANCISCO

### Blues, Folk & Country

**Bay Area Haul** Johnny Foley's Irish House, 8 pm, free

**Earnest Cool** [illegible] Saloon, 9-11 pm, free

**Mattinata di Domenica** Italian folk music w/ Shan Migrano, Caffe Trieste, 10:30 am-12:15 pm, free

### Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

**[illegible] Trio** live jazz, and Martinis, 8-11:30 pm, free

**Beach Blanket Babylon** musical revue and spoof of pop-culture figures in which Snow White travels around the world in search of Prince Charming, Club Fugazi, 7 & 11 pm, $25-$77

**Eddie [illegible]** w/ guests, Yoshi's San Francisco, 6-9 pm, free

**George Michalski** [illegible], 8:30 pm,

**SFJAZZ Presents [illegible]** music Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, 8 pm, $30-$50

### Rock & Pop

**Cartographer** with Predator and Tignal, Hemlock Tavern, 9:30 pm, $7

**Eric McFadden Trio** with Jeff Coffman's Om Jam, Terese Taylor, and Carroll Glenn, Cafe du Nord, 8 pm, $10-$12

**Dead & Doll Happy Hour Blues** w/ Moon Bandits, Thee Parkside, 3-8 pm, free

**Gregg Allen & The Royal We** with Big Scenic Nowhere and Those Darlings, Thee Parkside, 9 pm, $8

**Johnny Z & the Camaros** rocking Camaros play rock, country & R&B, Gold Dust Lounge, 9:30 pm-1:30 am, free

**Kevin Smith and Jason Mewes (Jay and Silent Bob)** The Warfield, 8 pm, $42.50-$59.50

**Kevin Smith and Jason Mewes (Jay and Silent Bob)** The Fillmore, 8 pm, $39.75-$56.75

**MegaPower** with The Centurion Sexual Aid & Premise Club and Delilah, Queen of the Hill, 10 pm, $12

### Soul, Funk, R&B & Hip-Hop

**Dwele** Yoshi's San Francisco, 8 & 10 pm, $28-$30

**Encore and Afrika Evening** [illegible] Lounge, 8 pm, $20

**Saturday Night Soul Party** with [illegible] Paul Paul & Phengren Oswald

Anthony B plays The New Parish on Thursday 3/17 Roberto Croce

Dan Pesser, 8 pm, $5

### World, Latin, Reggae & Reggaeton

**Pads Ellis** with Jamie Mendenia, Thee Parkside, 5 pm, free

**Trio [illegible] de Tango Argentino** and Poppy Art House, 8 pm, $15

## SUNDAY 20

## EAST BAY

### Blues, Folk & Country

**Sweetums Unplugged** Jupiter, 5 pm, free

**Greg Brown** Freight & Salvage Coffeehouse, 8 pm, $37.50

**Jimmy's All-Star Super Sessions** Jimmy hosts a different blues band every week, Pala's Restaurant, 5 pm, free

**Mystics, Eighteen Individual Eyes, Violet Hour** Mama Buzz Cafe, 7-8 pm, donations accepted

### Classical & Opera

**Joyce Yang** piano Hertz Hall, 3 pm, $48

### Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

**Grace Brown** open mic jazz, [illegible], 12-2 pm, free

**Happy Hour Jam** with Michael Zilber, tenor and soprano saxophones, John Gove, trombone, Erik Jekabson, trumpet, Peter Barshay, bass, and Jeff Marrs, drums, [illegible], 7:30 pm, $9-$12

**Jazzschool Artists Salute with Saxophonist Chris Potter** El Cerrito High School, 7 pm, $12-$18

**[illegible]** events, 7 & 8 pm, $20-$28

**Rudy Gemmi Big Band** Alameda Elks Lodge Rathskeller, 5-8 pm, $20, [illegible]

### Rock & Pop

**Christian Gonzales** with [illegible], Hannah's Cure, and One in The Chamber, Tit's Mile High Club, 8 pm, $8

**Gil Pederson** with George Glass, [illegible] Music & DVDs, 1 pm, free

**And City Glass** with Dead Panic, Hollow and Fears Rush, 924 Gilman, 5 pm,

### Soul, Funk, R&B & Hip-Hop

**More Listings Online**
Get info about hundreds of musical events
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or **m.EastBayExpress.com**

**Small Steps, Live Comedy** Lulu's Espresso & Lounge, 9 pm, free before 10:30 pm, $5 thereafter

### World, Latin, Reggae & Reggaeton

**Domingo de Rumba** Afro-Cuban rumba percussion & dance party, Cafe Valparaiso, 3:30-6:30 pm, free

**Portuguesa!** [illegible], 8:30 pm, $10

## SAN FRANCISCO

### All Ages

**Gospel Brunch** w/ [illegible] & amazing guests, 1300 on Fillmore, 11 am & 1 pm, $10 includes brunch

### Blues, Folk & Country

**Ed Ivey Blues Jam** Swig Bar, 9 pm-1:30 am, free

**Lounge: Dan Carroll, [illegible] and Love, Isabel** Yoshi's San Francisco, 8 pm, $7

**[illegible] Johnny and Premium Blue** [illegible] Tavern, 5:30 pm, free

**Songwriter Sundays** rotating artists perform in the lounge, Yoshi's San Francisco, [illegible], $3

**Tony [illegible]** Johnny Foley's Irish House, 5 pm, free

### Classical & Opera

**Michael [illegible]** on piano for Sunday champagne brunch Top of the Mark, 10 am-1 pm, $69 for brunch plus gratuity and tax

### Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

**Beach Blanket Babylon** musical revue and spoof of pop-culture figures in which Snow White travels around the world in search of Prince Charming, Club Fugazi, 2 & 5 pm, $25-$77

**[illegible]** Sunday brunch menu, [illegible], $10-$50, $65 [illegible] and show

**[illegible] Brunch** Johnny Foley's Irish House, free

**[illegible] and Olivia Fenton** Red Poppy Art House, 7 pm, $10-$15

**Regina Carter's Reverse Thread** Yoshi's San Francisco, 5 pm, $5, $15, $22

**SFJAZZ Presents [illegible]** Herbst Theatre, 7 pm, $28-$48-$65

**[illegible]** featuring [illegible] Speight, Sam Grobe-Heintz, & Mark Gillman, [illegible] Saloon, 4:30-8:30 pm, $5

**Jazz in the Gallery: Wayne Wallace music and Quilts** African American Art and Culture Complex, 2-4 pm, free

### Rock & Pop

**[illegible]** with [illegible], Bottom of the Hill, 2 pm, $8

**iPods for Orphans Benefit** with The Ian Fays, Hobbits NYC, and Amber Field, Rickshaw Stop, 6 pm, $15

**Johnny Z & the Camaros** rocking Camaros play rock, country & R&B, Gold Dust Lounge, 9:30 pm-1:30 am, free

**Lukas [illegible] and The Premise of The Noor** with The [illegible], Cafe du Nord, 8 pm, $12

**Billy [illegible]** with Wythered Hand and [illegible], [illegible] Tavern, 8 pm, $8

**The [illegible]** with The Bottom Kids and The Floating [illegible], Slim's, 4 pm, $10

### Soul, Funk, R&B & Hip-Hop

**Zion I & The Grouch** Amoeba Music, 2 pm, free

## MONDAY 21

## EAST BAY

### Blues, Folk & Country

**Mangrove Jam** McGrath's Pub, 7:30 pm, free

**"Uptown [illegible] Nights"** live burlesque w/ [illegible], The Uptown, 9 pm, $5

**[illegible] Songwriters Competition** Freight & Salvage Coffeehouse, 7:30 pm, $6.50-$8.50

### Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

**[illegible] Jazz Quintet** Yoshi's, 8 pm, $12

### Rock & Pop

**Two Ton Strap** with Fucking [illegible] Sub-Palace, and [illegible], 99's Mile High Club, 7 pm

### World, Latin, Reggae & Reggaetón

**[illegible]** Subterranean Arthouse, 8 pm, $5-10

## SAN FRANCISCO

### Blues, Folk & Country

**The Grateful Jam with A.J.** Ship's Tavern, 7:30 pm, free

**[illegible] Trio** with Shelley [illegible] Theodore, Shoshana Murphy, Shannon Smith, and [illegible] Band, Cafe du Nord, 9 pm, $10, $12 [illegible] Lyon Martin [illegible] Services

### Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

**La [illegible]** Le Colonial, 7 pm, free

**[illegible]** Yoshi's San Francisco, 8 pm, $8, $15, $12

### Rock & Pop

**[illegible]** Johnny Foley's Irish House, 8 pm, free

**[illegible]** with The War on Drugs, Loose Wil-

Sons, and DJ [illegible] Cross, Great American Music Hall, 8 pm, $16

**Fellow & Wood** with Fol Chen, The Independent, 8 pm, $10, $12

**Johnny Z & the Camaros** rotating [illegible] play rock, country, R&B, Gold Dust Lounge, 9:30 pm-1:30 am, free

**[illegible]** The Regency Center, 8 pm

# TUESDAY 22

## EAST BAY

### Blues, Folk & Country

**Country [illegible] Night** w/ [illegible], Winner's Bar & Grill, 7:30-11 pm, free

**CZ & The Bon Vivants** Cajun/zydeco [illegible] House with [illegible] at 8:00 p.m. Admission: 8:30 pm, $10

**Jam Night** w/ [illegible], Mojo Lounge, 8:30 pm, free

**[illegible]** Pator's Restaurant, 7:30-9 pm, free

**[illegible] Rock Foundation Benefit** with McTone, Kevin Brackett Band, and [illegible] Schumacher, Freight & Salvage Coffeehouse, 8 pm, $18.50, $20.50

**[illegible]** with The Mighty Fish Bowl, The New Parish, 9 pm, $12

### Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

**Eddie [illegible]** w/ [illegible], Cafe Rouge, 8:30 pm, free

**J. [illegible] Smith Clark Salutes The Ladies Who Sing with The Blues** Yoshi's, 8 pm, $10, $15

**Jazzschool Tuesdays** featuring [illegible] from the Berkeley Jazzschool, Jupiter, 8 pm, free

**[illegible]** Bossa jazz with guest vocalists, The Alley, 9 pm, free

### Rock & Pop

**[illegible]** featuring guests from Rogue Wave, Crown City Rockers, Persephone's Bees, Night Eyes, & more, The Layover, $3 pm, free

Flogging Molly plays the Fox Theater on Saturday, 3/19

**Lady Night** with [illegible], [illegible] House, 8 pm, 652-5184

## SAN FRANCISCO

### All Ages

**[illegible]** Verdi Club, 9:30 pm, $10

### Blues, Folk & Country

**[illegible]** Yoshi's San Francisco, 8 pm, $15

**[illegible]** Johnny Foley's Irish House, 9 pm, free

### Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

**[illegible]** playing soft jazz piano, Top of the Mark, 8:30-11:30 pm, $5-10

**Tuesday Night Jump!** [illegible] Band plays retro jazz, plus a swing dance lesson, Verdi Club, 8 pm, $10-$12

### Rock & Pop

**[illegible] Band** with Dylan Fox and The world and [illegible], [illegible] at the Hill

8 pm, $8

**[illegible]** with [illegible], [illegible], and visuals by [illegible], Elbo Room, 9 pm, $10, $12

**[illegible]** Pork Chop, [illegible], 6:30 pm, free

**Johnny Z & the Camaros** rotating [illegible] play rock, country, R&B, Gold Dust Lounge, 9:30 pm-1:30 am, free

**[illegible]** with [illegible] and [illegible], Harrison Tavern, 8 pm, $8

**[illegible]** with [illegible], Magnet, and DJ [illegible], The [illegible], 9:30 pm, $5

# WEDNESDAY 23

## EAST BAY

### Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

**Bob Goes & the [illegible]** Rancho's Roadhouse, 8-10 pm, free

**Jazz Theory Performance Class with Earl Garrett** 57th Street Gallery, 6-8 pm

**Kurt [illegible] Trio** original jazz, Cato's Ale House, 6-9 pm, free

**Live Jazz** Townhouse Bar & Grill, 7:30 pm, free

**[illegible] Jazz Band** Sorta Park, 7-8 pm, free

**[illegible]** Bossa jazz with guest cabaret singers, The Alley, 9 pm, free

**Gill [illegible]** piano music, Campo di Bocce, 6-9 pm, free

### Rock & Pop

**Dave Mooley** world blend of classics, oldies, jazz, 8 pm, Pator's Restaurant, 8 pm, free

**[illegible] Presents: Dig This!** This week: [illegible], Giant Girlfriend, Le Vice, and Mr. Wet, The Uptown, 9 pm, free

**[illegible], The Ex-Girlfriends Club, The Ferocious Few** Mama Buzz Cafe, 7-8 pm, donations accepted

**Mod Night** Sacramento Lounge, 8 pm, free

### Soul, Funk, R&B & Hip-Hop

**R.O.D. & [illegible] Unplugged** Yoshi's, 8 pm, $10

### World, Latin, Reggae & Reggaetón

**[illegible] Bhattacharya** Freight & Salvage Coffeehouse, 8 pm, $20.50, $22.50

**The [illegible] with Special Guests [illegible] McCormick, and [illegible]** Greek [illegible] House with Joey Duke at 7:30 p.m., [illegible] 8:30 pm, $10

## SAN FRANCISCO

### Blues, Folk & Country

**Billy Etheridge** Blue Bunk Lounge, 8 pm, $12

**Terry Summers** Johnny Foley's Irish House, 9 pm, free

### Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

**[illegible] Rodriguez Trio** Yoshi's San Francisco, 8 & 10 pm, $12, $18

**[illegible] Quinteto** [illegible] jazz

spoof of pop-culture figures in which Snow world travels [illegible] the world in search of Prince Charming, Gold Fugeal, 8 pm, $25-$32

**[illegible] and the [illegible]** Top of the Mark, 7:30-11:30 pm, $10

**[illegible]** w/ Gaucho, [illegible] Abraham Jewel, 7 pm

**[illegible]** w/ the Millers [illegible] Session, Amnesia, 8 pm, free

### Rock & Pop

**[illegible] And The [illegible]** with Julianna [illegible] and Hungry Kids [illegible] of the HA, 3 pm, $10

**Foster The People** with Grouplove and Lissands, The Independent, 8 pm, $12, $14

**Johnny Z & the Camaros** rotating [illegible] play rock, country & R&B, Gold Dust Lounge, 9:30 pm-1:30 am, free

**Tummock** with [illegible], [illegible], and [illegible] Lakes, Hemlock Tavern, 9 pm, $7

**[illegible]** with All Smiles, Cafe du Nord, 8:30 pm, $12

### Soul, Funk, R&B & Hip-Hop

**[illegible] ([illegible]/12 & [illegible])** with [illegible] and [illegible], [illegible], Amnesia, 8 pm, $10

### World, Latin, Reggae & Reggaetón

**[illegible]** Latin flamenco, Mediterranean & contemporary folk, Peña Pachamama, 8 pm, $12

**The Green** with Through the Roots and Three Good [illegible], [illegible] Music Hall, 9 pm, $13

**Lounge: [illegible] Salsa [illegible]** Yoshi's San Francisco, 9 pm, $8

*Submissions for music listings should be e-mailed to Chola@EastBayExpress.com or mailed to Chola Editor, East Bay Express, 620 3rd St., Oakland, CA 94607. Deadline is 14 days prior to the event date.*

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# DJ & DANCE

## THURSDAY 17

### EAST BAY

**[illegible]** w/ Senses from Sound spinning reggae & dancehall, Shashamane Riviera Café, 10 pm, free
**[illegible]** w/ DJs Kool Karlo & Chris Fin, Shattuck Down Low, 9 pm, free
**DJ Adell** spinning eclectic ear candy, Kingman's Lucky Lounge, 9 pm, free
**DJ [illegible]** Jupiter, 8 pm, free
**Flight Time** featuring DJ [illegible], The Layover, 10 pm, free
**Boogie Boogie** with Otis Powers, Raoul Kyle and Uncle Joe, Luka's Taproom & Lounge, 9 pm, free
**Salsa Night** w/ DJ Eddie E plus salsa lessons, Velvet's Bar & Grill, 8 pm, $10
**Shockwave** featuring DJ [illegible], The Layover, 10 pm, free
**Throwback Thursdays** [illegible] Nightclub, 9 pm, $4

### SAN FRANCISCO

**1984** DJs [illegible] spin 80s & new wave, Cat Club, 9 pm, free before 9:30 pm, $6
**[illegible] by Bass** DJ Bass [illegible], Bingo, The Knockout, 7:30-10 pm, free
**DJ [illegible] Roberts** [illegible], 9 pm, free
**DJ Ravine & [illegible]** spinning world music, El Rio, 8 pm, free
**[illegible] Presents [illegible]** with DJs Omar and Party Ben, [illegible], $10
**Tropicana Night** with Juan Bustamante, Dr. Saenz and guests spinning Salsa, Cumbia, Reggaeton and Merengue, Madrone Art Bar, 9 pm, free

## FRIDAY 18

### EAST BAY

**Kaoz 21** w/ DJs spinning Latin music, Club 21, 8 pm, $6-$15
**DJ [illegible]** The Layover, 9 pm, free
**Friday Nite Jams** w/ DJ [illegible], 10 pm, $5
**Girl Talk** with Max Tundra, Fox Theater, 8 pm, $29.50 (sold out)
**Hip-Hop House Music** w/ Naked DJ, Club 1220, 9 pm, $6
**Latin Explosion** DJ Jorge [illegible] spins rumba, salsa, merengue, bamba, Spanish pop, & house, Bench and Bar, 9 pm-2 am, $6-$15
**Official Girl Talk After-Party with Junk Culture** The Den, 10 pm, $5 with Girl Talk ticket, $10 without

### SAN FRANCISCO

**DJ Lebowitz** solo piano, Madrone Art Bar, 6-8 pm, free
**[illegible]** rotating DJs, The EndUp, 11 pm, $15, free before midnight
**[illegible]** w/ DJ Tom Thump and Guests, Make-Out Room, 10 pm, $5
**Mighty [illegible]** Mighty, 10 pm, $5
**Deuce** w/ DJs [illegible], Sandman, Trendy & [illegible], Underground SF, 9 pm, $5

## SATURDAY 19

### EAST BAY

**AZ Productions & [illegible] DJs** spinning R&B & hip-hop, [illegible], 10 pm, free
**[illegible]** w/ DJs [illegible] & guests spinning hip-hop & R&B, Bench and Bar, 9 pm, $6-$12
**Dancehall Saturdays** w/ [illegible] spinning reggae, dancehall, & hip-hop, The Avenue, 9 pm, free
**DJ [illegible] [illegible] "Under the Sea" After Party** Shattuck Down Low, 10:30 pm, $7
**Hella Gay** with DJs [illegible] and rotating guests, The Uptown, 9 pm, $7
**Magic Milk** [illegible] DJ Blood & guests host gender-bending extravaganza, Kingman's Lucky Lounge, 9 pm, free
**Maxxum Bodyrock** The Layover, 10 pm, free
**Wake-Up** w/ DJ Fluid Cut spinning hip-hop, R&B, The Missouri Lounge, 9:30 pm, free

### SAN FRANCISCO

**The Show** w/ DJs [illegible] & guests spinning house, [illegible], & minimal, The EndUp, 10 pm, $10

## SUNDAY 20

### EAST BAY

**[illegible]** spinning rock on vinyl, Bar 355, 10 pm, free
**Lay It Down Sundays** featuring DJ [illegible], The Layover, 2 pm, free
**[illegible]** [illegible], 11 am-2 pm, $5-$15, free for [illegible] 12 & under
**The Soul-Ful Five** with DJ Ashton and guest emcees, Luka's Taproom & Lounge, 9 pm, free
**[illegible] Ska Sundays** DJs spin ska, rocksteady & roots reggae, The Hotsy Totsy Club, 7 pm, free

### SAN FRANCISCO

**[illegible]** w/ [illegible] plus guests spinning house, tech, deep and soul, Triple Crown, 10 pm,
**Holding Firm** DJ Sleepwalker & guests spin reggae & dancehall, Underground SF, 8 pm, free before 10:30 pm, $5
**[illegible]** DJ [illegible] & guests spin rare jazz, soul, & funk, [illegible], 9 pm, free

## MONDAY 21

### EAST BAY

**3 Day Weekend** with DJs [illegible], Luka's Taproom & Lounge, 9 pm, free
**DJ Angie** spinning dub, ska & soul, Easy Lounge, 9 pm, free
**[illegible] Mechanic** spinning DJs spinning rock and a bike mechanic, The Layover, 8:30 pm, free
**[illegible]** w/ DJ K-Tel spinning mid-tempo rock, soft hits, rhythm & soul, The Missouri Lounge, 10 pm, free

### SAN FRANCISCO

**[illegible]** spinning classic soul, rare grooves, & downtempo, Swig Bar, 9 pm, free
**[illegible]** w/ DJ [illegible], Hemlock Tavern, 10 pm, free

## TUESDAY 22

### EAST BAY

**Country Dance Night** plus line dancing, Club 1220, 8 pm, free
**DJ [illegible]** spinning salsa & Latin funk, Easy Lounge, 9 pm, free
**DJ Woody** spinning punk, Lost Weekend Lounge, 9 pm-2 am, free
**[illegible]** Luka's Taproom & Lounge, 10 pm
**Vintage** featuring DJ [illegible] & weekly guests spinning deep cuts from the 60's through tomorrow, [illegible], 7 pm, free

# PICK

**Girl Talk**

No one can manhandle pop music like **Girl Talk (Gregg Michael Gillis)**, the 29-year-old DJ and mash-up artist who turned sampling into a form of performance art. His latest album, *All Day* — available as a free download on the artist's **Illegal Art** label website — is a fast-paced romp through a giant swath of the pop music canon. The list of artists sampled includes everyone from starry hip-hop artist **Wiz Khalifa** to R&B baritone **Barry White**, to Eighties pop star **Cyndi Lauper**. Gillis stitched songs together in a way that showed his quirky sense of humor — few other DJs would have the presence of mind to mix **Ludacris**' "Move Bitch" with **Black Sabbath**'s "War Pigs," and then make a rap about [illegible] driving into a perfect song. That's just the first 90 seconds of this dizzying, 71-minute mix. Girl Talk is famous for inviting fans to dance onstage with him, turning his lap-top show into a more interactive experience. These days, he wraps the instrument in plastic bags to protect it from sweat and beer. He'll appear at **the Fox Theater** (1807 Telegraph Ave., Oakland) on Friday, Mar. 18, 9 p.m., $29.50. An after-party at the Fox Den features **Junk Culture**. It starts at 10 p.m. and costs $5 for Girl Talk ticket holders, or $10 for everyone else. APEConcerts.com
— *Rachel Swan*

### SAN FRANCISCO

**Koonsofa** w/ DJs Chicken Scratch, Sandy Fox, Greens D, MCD & guests spinning late '80s and early '90s hip-hop, The Cellar, 10 pm, free

## WEDNESDAY 23

### EAST BAY

**The 80s Presents** [illegible], spin Groove Wednesdays w/ DJs B-Cause & Wonder [illegible], [illegible], 10:30 pm, $5
**Groove Bay** w/ DJs Jel & [illegible] of [illegible], The Missouri Lounge, 10 pm-2 am, free
**The Jump Off: Hump Day Hip-Hop** w/ DJs spinning hip-hop, Club 21, 9 pm, $6-$15

### SAN FRANCISCO

**1001 Nights** DJ Cheb i Sabbah spins North African & Middle Eastern grooves, Underground SF, 8 pm, $5
**Groove New Wednesdays** w/ DJs Busy B, Nyse & B-Stout spinning hip-hop, top 40, reggae, R&B & more, Milk, 10 pm, free
**Boogie** DJs spin hip-hop, R&B, reggae, & club [illegible], The Cellar, 10 pm, free

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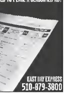

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SAVAGE LOVE

# THREE'S THE MAGIC NUMBER

Or is it a crowd?

By Dan Savage

*I am a 36-year-old straight man blissfully married to my 34-year-old soul mate. We have explored and enjoyed each other for a decade now and we recently started exploring BDSM and D/s fantasies. Everything was going great sexually — until last night. Two years ago, my wife expressed an interest in an MMF three-way, where I was the Dom guiding the action between all three of us. I planned this event play by play, reviewing in my mind everything that was to take place. There were many conversations about expectations, stipulations, etc. All bases covered. I went into the event mentally prepared and gleefully excited. Magic happened for about two hours — passion, love, and dirty, dirty sex. Almost every kinky kind was being had and enjoyed save vaginal intercourse.*

*Then my wife was vaginally penetrated by our friend.*

*It was as if all the air in the room was sucked out through my soul. I instantly lost my bone, gone forever (I thought), and I felt angry and unwanted. I had to stop the scene. My friend and my wife instantly tended to me during my breakdown. The sorrow of disappointing my wife hurts the most, even though she calls me brave for this. I don't feel brave. I feel confused. I had planned how everything was going to happen. I even gave the fucking command (literally) for my friend to enter my wife. Crushing emotional pain followed.*

*In the morning, my wife woke me and made love to me, tenderly and healingly. So at least the dick works. I am still beset by all manner of doubts and insecurities. Is my dick big enough? Am I good enough for her sexually?*

*I feel scared and trapped in a land that I have never visited before: a land called Insecurity.*

*Heartbroken Dom*

You're clearly in pain, and I want to be sensitive to your pain . . . but . . . your overwrought prose style has me wondering if you're enjoying this drama a bit. Maybe that's just the way you talk — maybe you always sound like a Brontë sister after a three-day bender — but there's a self-dramatizing, self-aggrandizing tone to your e-mail that gives me pause.

I'm not saying that your distress is an act or your pain isn't sincerely felt, HD, but your meltdown effectively ended a scene in which all attention was focused on your wife and started a new scene in which all attention was focused on you. As you wander the heaths of Insecurity, I'd encourage you to examine your own subconscious for evidence of drama queendom.

That said, HD, sometimes three-way reality is a lot more emotionally charged and challenging than three-way fantasy. Let your experience be a lesson for others: If there's a sex act — say, vaginal intercourse — that holds huge symbolic importance for you or your partner, it might be best to take that act off the menu. Take things slow the first, second, and third time, invite your guest star to participate in some lower-stake/lower-significance sex acts, but reserve the main event for yourself.

Perhaps you didn't realize how shattering it would be to watch this man bone your wife until the moment that he — at your command — boned your wife. Like they say: Hindsight/sex-advice columnists is/are 20/20/a bitch.

How do you get past this, HD? Only the passage of time will lead you out of Insecurity. You'll come to believe that, yes, you are good enough for the wife sexually because you're going to keep having great sex. You'll come to believe that she's content with you when you close your relationship and she isn't chomping at the bit to fuck other guys.

*I have a rent-boy etiquette question. Recently, a client of mine who lives in another state invited me to join him at a resort where he was meeting up with friends. This included a nice-looking man who lives near me, whom I will call "Three." My client has been lusting after Three for a long time and my job was to act as bait to lure Three into a three-way with my client and me. Things went really well and the desired three-way happened on Saturday night and again on Sunday morning.*

*Here is the problem: I don't think my client informed Three that I was there in a professional capacity. So from Three's perspective, I sought him out, flirted shamelessly, and had really hot sex with him — twice. So it would be pretty jarring to him that the very next day I'm suddenly not interested in him. It goes against whore protocol to "out" a client, and I suspect my client did not want Three to know I am a rent boy because that might have been a deal breaker.*

*I would feel pretty stupid if I thought a man was really into me only to later find out he was just doing his job. Three's feelings are bound to be bruised. I don't know what to do. I want to be respectful of my client's confidence, but I don't feel comfortable tossing Three aside like a used tissue. There is a real possibility that I will be seeing him in the future since we move in similar circles or the next time my client comes to town. Is this my client's faux pas, or is there some rent-boy protocol I should have followed?*

*Awkwardly Socializing Soon*

If Three didn't know you were a rent boy, ASS, and that you were being used as bait, then Three's consent was obtained under false pretenses. That's not okay. And as you knew going in that you were being used as bait — that it was your "job" to get Three into bed — you were an active participant in this deception.

You're a rent boy, ASS, not a rent bot — you don't have to do everything a client asks. You could have agreed to flirt with Three, but you should have insisted to your client that your employment status be revealed to Three at some point between flirtation and fellatio.

Considering the circumstances, ASS, I think you can be released from the bonds of strict client confidentiality on this occasion. If you run into Three and he seems hurt or confused, let him down gently. Tell him he's an attractive guy, tell him you enjoyed the hell out of those three-ways — then tell him you were on a job and you're sorry for not telling him sooner, i.e., for not telling him that weekend, before anything happened. ●

Find the Savage Lovecast (my weekly podcast) every Tuesday at thestranger.com/savage
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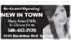
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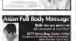
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